After Six?

Weigh evidence and perspectives in a local decision

USH.P.1 "Apply critical thinking skills to address authentic civic issues. Demonstrate an understanding of the virtue of civil discourse to analyze and address real-world problems. Evaluate the impact of perspectives, civil discourse..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two pieces of evidence about library use, circle one limit of that evidence, and number two different concerns about changing the hours. Use your marks to weigh the proposal.

Should the Library Stay Open Later?

1. At a public library, the doors close at 6 p.m. on weekdays. Several students tell the town council they need a quiet place to study after sports and jobs. Library workers say later hours would require paid staff and a safe trip home for those closing the building. Everyone agrees that students need access to learning spaces, but they disagree about which costs the town should take on. The council can change the library's hours, yet it must decide in public how to use limited funds. That makes the question more than a complaint about a locked door.

2. Before proposing a change, a student group collects a month of hourly visitor counts from the library. The records show steady use just before closing, but they do not show how many visitors would arrive after 6 p.m. The group also surveys classmates; most respondents favor later hours. Since only students answered, the survey cannot speak for all residents. A librarian estimates the cost of an extra hour using the current staffing schedule, while a worker asks who would cover a missed shift. These sources answer different questions, and none alone settles whether extending hours is worth the cost.

3. At a council meeting, speakers agree to discuss the plan without calling opponents selfish or careless. One resident suggests cutting weekend hours to pay for weekday evenings; another points out that weekend visitors would lose access. The student group revises its idea: try one extra weekday hour for eight weeks, propose a funding source for staff, and publish attendance and staffing costs. Council members invite weekend visitors and library workers to respond before voting. A trial would not prove what every future month would look like, but it could provide better evidence for a later decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why can't the student survey establish that all residents favor later hours?

2. How do the visitor counts support later hours, and what important question do they leave unanswered?

3. What goal do the students and library workers share, and why might they disagree about later hours?

4. Why does the revised proposal address the weekend visitor's objection better than cutting weekend hours would?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Propose a different way to improve students' access to a quiet study space without cutting weekend library hours. In 4 to 5 sentences, name whose views you would seek, a weakness in the current evidence, a way to gather better evidence, and how residents could help decide.

After Six?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two pieces of evidence about library use, circle one limit of that evidence, and number two different concerns about changing the hours. Use your marks to weigh the proposal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why can't the student survey establish that all residents favor later hours?	**Only students answered, so the survey does not represent all residents.**
2	How do the visitor counts support later hours, and what important question do they leave unanswered?	**Steady use before closing suggests demand, but the counts do not show how many people would visit after 6 p.m.**
3	What goal do the students and library workers share, and why might they disagree about later hours?	**They share a goal of access to learning spaces. Students want more study time, while workers raise concerns about staffing costs and getting home safely.**
4	Why does the revised proposal address the weekend visitor's objection better than cutting weekend hours would?	**It proposes testing an extra weekday hour and finding funding without taking away weekend access.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would ask the community center to offer a supervised study room two evenings a week instead of changing library hours. I would invite students, library workers, center staff, and nearby residents to describe their needs at a public meeting. The student survey does not show what nonstudents want. A new survey of residents and a count of study room users during a short trial would test demand. The council could discuss those results in public and vote on whether to fund the room.

Accept other feasible strategies that preserve weekend hours. Responses should identify relevant perspectives, a specific evidence gap, a way to investigate it, and a public decision-making step.