Shade or Ramps?

Weigh evidence and perspectives before a public decision

WG.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, circle one unsupported claim, and write 1 and 2 beside the two competing funding priorities. Use your marks to weigh what the transit board should do next.

A Decision at the Bus Stop

1. In the fictional city of Brookdale, students ask the transit board to add shade at a bus stop beside the public library. They report waiting in direct sun after school. A riders' group records afternoon temperatures for five days and finds that the unshaded bench is hotter than a nearby shaded bench. The group shares its measurement times, but it did not measure how many riders use each stop. At a public meeting, several riders favor a shelter for comfort and safety. A business owner worries that a shelter could block the sidewalk and storefront.

2. The transit director brings a cost estimate for a shelter and notes that the board also needs money to repair worn bus ramps. A disability advocate says working ramps must come first because some riders cannot board without them. Riders and the advocate agree that access to transit matters, but disagree about which project is most urgent. A speaker argues that only students use the library stop, so a shelter would waste public money. No ridership count supports that claim. Board members ask for counts at different times and for a sidewalk width check before comparing options.

3. The board invites riders, shop owners, and disability advocates to a second public meeting, with equal time to speak and a rule against personal attacks. Members propose a short trial of a portable shade structure if the sidewalk remains accessible, while keeping ramp repairs in the budget. They plan to count riders before and during the trial and collect comments from people using wheelchairs as well as nearby businesses. A trial would not prove that shade solves every transit problem. It would give the board evidence to review in public before voting on a permanent shelter.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the temperature evidence support, and what important question does it leave unanswered?

2. Why should the board question the claim that only students use the library stop?

3. Where do the shelter supporters and the disability advocate agree, and how do their priorities differ?

4. How could the proposed trial and public meeting help the board make a fairer decision?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a community issue outside school other than public transit. In five sentences, name two affected groups, explain how you would check one claim, describe a respectful way to hear disagreement, and propose an action and a way to judge its results.

Shade or Ramps?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two pieces of evidence, circle one unsupported claim, and write 1 and 2 beside the two competing funding priorities. Use your marks to weigh what the transit board should do next. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the temperature evidence support, and what important question does it leave unanswered?	**The measurements support that the unshaded bench was hotter than a nearby shaded bench during the five afternoons measured. They do not show how many riders use either stop.**
2	Why should the board question the claim that only students use the library stop?	**The speaker gives no ridership count to support the claim. The board needs counts at different times before relying on it.**
3	Where do the shelter supporters and the disability advocate agree, and how do their priorities differ?	**Both value access to transit. Shelter supporters favor shade for waiting riders, while the advocate prioritizes ramps that some riders need to board.**
4	How could the proposed trial and public meeting help the board make a fairer decision?	**Equal speaking time lets affected groups share concerns. The trial, rider counts, sidewalk check, and comments give the board evidence to consider before a public vote.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our neighborhood park needs better evening lighting, but nearby residents fear glare. I would invite park users and neighbors to a public meeting with equal speaking time and no personal attacks. To check the claim that injuries are common after dark, I would ask for dated incident records. The parks board could test shielded lights on one path for a month. It could review incident reports and comments from both groups before voting in public on whether to keep the lights.

Accept other supported interpretations of the evidence and priorities. For Part 3, look for two affected groups, a specific way to check a claim, respectful participation, and a way to evaluate the proposed action.