

# The Lunch Decision

Separate evidence of a problem from approval of a proposed solution.

**9.P.EICC.2.e** "Consume and produce texts in order to solve problems or influence decisions. (I/C)"

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** This school and its five-day observation are fictional. Underline what the observation actually establishes. Circle limits or questions that still need review. Number the requested next step and two reasons for it.

### Before a Lunch Pilot

- ① To the Cedar Ridge School Board, our student council asks for a review of ways to reduce unopened food waste. During a five-day observation, volunteers counted 186 unopened items placed in cafeteria trash bins, including milk cartons, applesauce cups and granola bars. The count describes waste during those lunches. It does not show whether any discarded item was safe to eat, how it had been stored, or which items would qualify for sharing. Students should not retrieve discarded food. We want the school's food-service team to investigate possible changes using better information than packaging alone.
- ② A share table is one option for the team to consider, not a program we are ready to start. Unopened packaging by itself does not establish food safety. School food-service staff would need to review applicable health rules, permitted items, storage and temperature controls, supervision, and the school's food-safety plan with the appropriate agencies. A check only at the end of lunch would not replace the controls needed while food is available. Our council can describe the waste observations and students' questions, but it cannot decide that a particular sharing arrangement meets those requirements.

- ③ We therefore ask the board to authorize a planning meeting with food-service staff before considering any pilot. Staff could compare options, estimate the work required, and explain what evidence a later proposal would need. If an option becomes eligible for approval, its evaluation could track the amount wasted, participation and staff time using clearly defined measures. A lower waste count alone would not prove a program was safe or practical. The meeting would help the board decide whether to request a detailed proposal, investigate a different approach, or take no further action.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 What does the five-day count establish, and what does it leave unknown?

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- 2 What decision does the council request now, and why is it limited?

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- 3 Why are unopened packaging and an end-of-lunch check insufficient?

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- 4 Why would a lower waste count alone not settle the board's decision?

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YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90-110-word proposal about a different school problem. Address a school decision-maker, include one specific piece of evidence, explain one limit on that evidence, address a likely concern, and request a justified next step.

**Draft the proposal**

Use known information, or label the scenario fictional. Include a clear action and explain why the decision-maker should consider it. Write 90-110 words.

**Check the evidence**

Underline the evidence in your draft and circle its limit. In two sentences, explain whether your request stays within what you know; revise a claim if needed. This check is outside the word count.

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

This school and its five-day observation are fictional. Underline what the observation actually establishes. Circle limits or questions that still need review. Number the requested next step and two reasons for it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What does the five-day count establish, and what does it leave unknown? | <b>It establishes that volunteers observed 186 unopened items entering trash during those lunches. It does not establish safety, storage history or eligibility for sharing.</b>            |
| 2 | What decision does the council request now, and why is it limited?      | <b>Authorize a planning meeting with food-service staff. Rules, controls, staffing and options need review before any pilot could be considered.</b>                                        |
| 3 | Why are unopened packaging and an end-of-lunch check insufficient?      | <b>Packaging alone does not establish safety; controls such as permitted items, storage, temperature and supervision must be addressed while food is available, under applicable rules.</b> |
| 4 | Why would a lower waste count alone not settle the board's decision?    | <b>Waste reduction is only one consideration. The board also needs appropriate review of safety requirements, staff work and practical operation.</b>                                       |

### **PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

**Proposal:** Principal Alvarez, please arrange a discussion about a quiet study area during lunch. In this fictional case, 57 of 84 survey respondents said they wanted a calm place to work. Their answers show interest among respondents, not how many would attend each day. The library has existing tables, but the librarian would need to assess scheduling, access and supervision before a trial. Students who prefer conversation should also have a chance to explain their needs. Could you invite the librarian and student representatives to compare options and decide what information is needed before approving a plan?

**Evidence check:** The survey supports investigating interest, not predicting daily attendance. A discussion is a justified next step because staffing and space arrangements remain unresolved.

The proposal paragraph alone must be 90-110 words. Assess the evidence, its limit, response to a concern and proportional request. This is analysis of a fictional proposal, not instructions for operating a share table. Food-service decisions require the applicable professional review described in the passage. Basis: USDA, The Use of Share Tables in Child Nutrition Programs, SP41-2016 (June 22, 2016), food-safety requirements and attached best practices.