After the Bell

Read a school proposal and test the reasons behind it.

7.RI.8.a "Assess whether the reasoning is sound."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline claims about later library hours, circle the evidence offered for each claim, and put a question mark beside any claim that needs more proof.

Should the Library Stay Open?

1. The student council wants the school library to stay open until 5:30 instead of closing at 3:30. At a meeting, Maya argues that later hours would help students who need a quiet place after school. She points to a sign-in sheet from a two-week trial: on each school day, between 18 and 31 students used the library after 3:30. The sheet shows that some students chose the extra time. It does not show whether those students lacked another place to study or whether they finished more work.

2. Jalen makes a bigger claim: keeping the library open later will raise everyone's grades. He interviewed eight students who stayed during the trial, and six said they felt more prepared for class. Jalen also reports that the average math quiz score for those eight students was 82 during the same two weeks. He did not compare that score with scores from earlier weeks, and the class had just started a new unit. No one recorded whether students studied in the library or simply waited there for a ride.

3. At the meeting, Principal Ortiz raises a cost concern. She says an adult must supervise the library, so longer hours could require extra staff time. Maya replies that the librarian offered to start two hours later on trial days and still work the same number of hours. However, another adult covered the library during the librarian's usual morning shift, and the school did not track that person's time. The council must decide whether the trial supports permanent later hours, not just whether students enjoyed the trial.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Does the sign-in sheet alone support Maya's claim that later hours would help students who need a quiet place? Explain.

2. Is Jalen's interview evidence enough to support his claim about everyone's grades? Explain.

3. Can Jalen use the average quiz score of 82 to show that the trial improved grades? Why or why not?

4. Does Maya's reply settle Principal Ortiz's concern about extra staff time? Explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A council member says, “If the library is full one Friday after 3:30, permanent later hours are necessary.” In 3 or 4 sentences, judge whether that reasoning is sound and propose a better way to gather evidence.

ANSWER KEY

After the Bell

GRADE 7 · 7.RI.8.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline claims about later library hours, circle the evidence offered for each claim, and put a question mark beside any claim that needs more proof. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Does the sign-in sheet alone support Maya's claim that later hours would help students who need a quiet place? Explain.	**Not fully. It shows that students used the extra hours, but not whether they needed a quiet place or benefited from it.**
2	Is Jalen's interview evidence enough to support his claim about everyone's grades? Explain.	**No. He interviewed only eight students who used the library, and feeling prepared does not show that anyone's grades rose.**
3	Can Jalen use the average quiz score of 82 to show that the trial improved grades? Why or why not?	**No. He gives no earlier scores for comparison, so 82 does not show an improvement.**
4	Does Maya's reply settle Principal Ortiz's concern about extra staff time? Explain.	**No. Another adult covered the librarian's morning shift, and the school did not track that person's time.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

That reasoning is weak because one busy Friday cannot show what happens on most school days. The council could count afternoon visitors for several weeks and ask whether they have another quiet place to work. Those records would show how often students need the extra hours, though the council would still need to check staffing costs.

Accept judgments that distinguish what the evidence shows from what the claim assumes. For the open task, students should explain why one Friday is insufficient and suggest evidence that would better inform a permanent decision.