Evidence After Hours

Weigh the support behind a library proposal

7.RI.8.b "Assess whether the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each speaker's claim and circle evidence that relates to it. Put a question mark beside evidence that leaves an important gap or does not relate to the claim.

Should the Library Stay Open Later?

1. At a town meeting, Maya argues that the public library should stay open until 8 p.m. instead of closing at 6. She says later hours would help many residents who cannot visit before dinner. To support her claim, she shares a survey from her after-school club: 22 of its 28 members said they would use the library after 6. The club meets at one middle school. Maya also mentions that her uncle works until 6:30 and usually returns his books in the outdoor slot.

2. Another speaker, Luis, claims the change would cost almost nothing. He notes that the library's lights remain on until 8 p.m. while cleaners work. The library closes to visitors at 6, and its staff members currently leave soon afterward. Luis also points out that the library won a prize for its summer reading program last year. He says both facts support his claim about the cost of later hours. The town council will review his statement before it votes on a new schedule.

3. Library director Chen suggests a one-month trial instead of a permanent change. Staff counted visitors between 5 and 6 p.m. on four Tuesdays and found 6, 7, 8, and 7 visitors. Chen wants to count visits between 6 and 8 during the trial and keep a record of extra staffing costs. She says the town can then decide whether enough people use the later hours to justify the expense. The council has not yet voted, and no one has counted visits after 6.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which detail better supports Maya's claim about helping many residents, the survey or her uncle's schedule? Explain.

2. Are Maya's details sufficient to show that later hours would help many residents across town? Why or why not?

3. Which of Luis's details relates to the cost of later hours, and which does not? Explain.

4. Are the four Tuesday counts enough to decide whether later hours are worth the expense? Explain what Chen's trial would add.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A neighbor claims that staying open later would be unsafe because the library has a parking lot. Write four sentences judging whether that detail is relevant and sufficient, then name two specific kinds of evidence the council should collect to test the claim.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence After Hours

GRADE 7 · 7.RI.8.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each speaker's claim and circle evidence that relates to it. Put a question mark beside evidence that leaves an important gap or does not relate to the claim. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which detail better supports Maya's claim about helping many residents, the survey or her uncle's schedule? Explain.	**The survey is stronger because it reports interest from 22 people, while her uncle's schedule describes only one person.**
2	Are Maya's details sufficient to show that later hours would help many residents across town? Why or why not?	**No. The survey includes only 28 members of one school's club, and her uncle is just one resident. These details do not show what residents across town need.**
3	Which of Luis's details relates to the cost of later hours, and which does not? Explain.	**The lights staying on relates to a possible lighting cost. The summer reading prize does not provide information about the cost of staying open.**
4	Are the four Tuesday counts enough to decide whether later hours are worth the expense? Explain what Chen's trial would add.	**No. The counts cover only 5 to 6 p.m., not the proposed later hours. The trial would measure visits from 6 to 8 and record extra staffing costs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A parking lot could affect visitors' safety after dark, so the detail is relevant. Still, its existence alone does not show that anyone would be unsafe. The council should inspect the lot's lighting during the proposed hours. It should also review reports of safety incidents near the library after 6 p.m.

Accept answers that distinguish evidence related to a claim from evidence strong enough to establish it. Students may propose other specific, practical ways to check the safety claim.