The Lunch Trial

Test the claims behind a school proposal

8.RI.8 "Delineate (break down) and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text. Assess whether the reasoning is sound. Assess whether the evidence is relevant and sufficient. Recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's main proposal and smaller claims. Number the evidence offered for each claim, then circle a detail that does not help prove the proposal.

Should the Library Open at Lunch?

1. At lunch, our cafeteria fills with voices, but some students want a place to read or work. Brookside Middle School should open its library during lunch for a two-week trial. In a survey shared in the school newsletter, 24 of 30 students who answered said they would use a quiet lunch space. That response suggests interest, but the survey link was optional, so students who wanted the change may have been more likely to answer. A short trial would show whether the library actually draws students.

2. Last Tuesday, the librarian let students enter during lunch as a one-day test. Eighteen students came in, and thirteen stayed until the bell. Those counts show that some students used the space, but one day cannot tell us whether the same number would come every week. Supporters also claim that opening the library would make the cafeteria less crowded. They point to the eighteen library visitors as proof. Yet no one counted how many students were in the cafeteria that day, so the claim about crowding needs more evidence.

3. Some people worry that lunch visitors would leave books scattered and create extra work for staff. A trial could include a sign-in sheet and a quick shelf check after lunch, but no one has tested whether those steps would help. The school chess team won three trophies last spring, showing that Brookside students know how to work together. That success is another reason to trust students with the library. Before making the change permanent, the school should track attendance, noise, and staff time during the trial.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's main proposal? Name two smaller claims used to support it.

2. Do the counts from Tuesday prove that opening the library would make the cafeteria less crowded? Explain.

3. Is the survey relevant to the claim that students would use a quiet lunch space? Is it enough to predict regular use? Explain both judgments.

4. Which detail about the chess team does not help support the library proposal? Explain why it is irrelevant.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Propose a way to test whether a sign-in sheet and shelf check limit extra work for staff. In two or three sentences, say what you would record during the trial and how the results would help you judge that claim.

ANSWER KEY

The Lunch Trial

GRADE 8 · 8.RI.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's main proposal and smaller claims. Number the evidence offered for each claim, then circle a detail that does not help prove the proposal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's main proposal? Name two smaller claims used to support it.	**The writer proposes opening the library at lunch for a two-week trial. The smaller claims are that students would use it and that it would make the cafeteria less crowded.**
2	Do the counts from Tuesday prove that opening the library would make the cafeteria less crowded? Explain.	**No. Eighteen students entered the library, but no one counted students in the cafeteria, so the counts do not show whether crowding decreased.**
3	Is the survey relevant to the claim that students would use a quiet lunch space? Is it enough to predict regular use? Explain both judgments.	**It is relevant because 24 respondents said they would use the space. It is not enough to predict regular use because only 30 students answered an optional survey, and saying they would come is not the same as coming regularly.**
4	Which detail about the chess team does not help support the library proposal? Explain why it is irrelevant.	**The chess team won three trophies. Its success does not show whether students would use the library responsibly at lunch or whether staff could manage it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During the first week, staff could record cleanup time and books left out without a sign-in sheet or shelf check, then use both steps during the second week. They could compare the records to see whether cleanup time and books left out decrease.

Accept other relevant ways to test the claim if students identify a measurable result and explain how it would help them judge whether the steps reduce staff work.