

Video Visits and Choices

See how different forces shape access to telemedicine.

6.18.B “explain how resources, economic factors, and political decisions affect the use of technology; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about resources, circle details about costs or payments, and box political decisions. Number each marked detail and its effect on telemedicine use with the same number.

Telemedicine in Pine Ridge County

- ① In Pine Ridge County, many families live far from a clinic. The county has two doctors, but several homes lack reliable high-speed internet. A local hospital tested telemedicine, which lets patients speak with a doctor by video. The program worked well for follow-up visits, yet some patients could not join video calls. Without broadband, computers, or cell service, a useful technology could not reach every household. The hospital also needed cameras, secure software, and trained staff to run appointments safely.
- ② Even where internet was available, cost shaped who used telemedicine. Some families paid monthly fees for fast service or used limited phone data. The hospital had to buy secure software and train nurses, so it could not offer every kind of online visit at once. Insurance coverage mattered too. When an insurance plan paid for a video visit, patients were more likely to choose it. When coverage was uncertain, families often traveled to the clinic instead.
- ③ Political decisions changed the program's future. County leaders voted to use public funds to expand broadband along roads where service companies had not built lines. State rules also allowed certain licensed doctors to provide telemedicine visits to patients in remote areas. These choices did not guarantee that everyone would use video visits. However, they added resources and removed a legal barrier, making the technology more available. The county still had to decide how to spend limited tax money on internet, roads, and other needs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why could some patients not use telemedicine, even though the hospital's program worked well?

2 Describe two economic factors that affected whether telemedicine was used.

3 What political decision did county leaders make, and how could it affect telemedicine use?

4 How did state rules affect telemedicine for people in remote areas?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a technology used in your school or community. Write 4 or 5 sentences that name one resource, one economic factor, and one political decision that could affect its use. Explain the effect of each factor.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details about resources, circle details about costs or payments, and box political decisions. Number each marked detail and its effect on telemedicine use with the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why could some patients not use telemedicine, even though the hospital's program worked well?	Some homes lacked broadband, computers, or cell service, so patients could not join video calls.
2	Describe two economic factors that affected whether telemedicine was used.	Families faced monthly internet fees or limited phone data. The hospital had costs for software and nurse training, and insurance payment made patients more likely to choose video visits.
3	What political decision did county leaders make, and how could it affect telemedicine use?	County leaders voted to use public funds to expand broadband. More broadband could allow more households to use video visits.
4	How did state rules affect telemedicine for people in remote areas?	The rules allowed certain licensed doctors to provide telemedicine visits to remote patients, removing a legal barrier.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Suppose a town library wants to lend e-readers. It needs enough devices, Wi-Fi, and staff time, so a shortage of any of these resources would limit borrowing. The cost of buying e-readers and replacing damaged ones could make the program smaller. If the town council approves library funds for the program, more residents could use e-readers.

Accept equivalent explanations that correctly connect a resource, an economic factor, or a political decision to increased or limited technology use. For the open response, each of the three factors must be named and linked to a reasonable effect.