

One room, different needs

Start with your experience

A community center has one room for independent study.

What should matter most when people disagree about its use?

Your ideas, examples and corrections

Move the cards. Explain one choice.

Add an idea of your own. Different answers are possible.

Essential for my plan

Can be negotiated

Quiet concentration

Group discussion

Equal access

Flexible hours

Simple rules

A low budget

Rank two priorities. Explain who might reasonably rank them differently.

Language for a balanced recommendation

Useful language in context

proposal — The proposal changes how the room is booked.

trade-off — Longer sessions mean fewer available slots.

access — Evening access matters to people who work.

constraint — The budget is a real constraint.

evidence — We need evidence about actual demand.

assumption — That assumption has not been checked.

allocate — How should we allocate the available hours?

priority — Quiet study is my first priority.

disruption — Group conversations may cause disruption.

compromise — A compromise could protect quiet hours.

trial period — We can review the rule after a trial period.

feedback — Ask users for specific feedback.

fairness — Different users may define fairness differently.

drawback — A drawback is the extra administration.

Examples from your own life

Choose three expressions. Use them in a short exchange with your tutor.

Who gets the quiet room?

Read for the main idea, then for details

Riverside Community Center has a small study room with twelve desks. It is currently open without reservations, but users disagree about what should happen there. Some want a silent place to concentrate; others meet classmates to solve problems together. The center has one staff member at the front desk and no budget for another room.

A volunteer committee has proposed two options. Proposal A would make the room silent throughout the day. Users could book a desk for up to ninety minutes, and unclaimed reservations would expire after ten minutes. Supporters say a predictable rule would reduce arguments. Despite the clear rule, however, staff would still need to deal with missed bookings and occasional conversations.

Proposal B would divide the day into quiet and collaborative periods. Mornings would be silent, while late afternoons would allow small-group discussion. No reservations would be needed. Although this option would give both groups dedicated time, it might disadvantage people who can visit only after work and need silence. A timetable alone would not resolve that conflict.

The committee asked forty current visitors about their preferences. Twenty-four favored Proposal B, twelve chose A and four were unsure. These responses describe the people who answered, not everyone who might use the center. The survey did not ask about working hours, and it did not include people who had stopped visiting because of the noise.

The manager has not made a final decision. She wants a four-week trial with a simple way to record crowded periods, complaints and unused desks. She has asked the committee to recommend one option, acknowledge its main drawback and explain what evidence would make them reconsider.

Evidence hunt

Which proposal needs reservations?

Whose needs may be missing from the survey?

What evidence could change your recommendation?

Quote a detail. Add your interpretation.

Separate what the writer tells you from what you still need to ask.

Acknowledge the drawback

A useful pattern

Although + clause: Although the rule is clear, enforcement takes time.

Despite + noun/-ing: Despite the clear rule, enforcement takes time.

Both acknowledge a contrast; what follows must fit the grammar.

Write and improve your own examples

Compare the examples

After although	After despite
the room is small	the small room
users prefer quiet	users preferring quiet

Try it together

Rephrase: Although booking is convenient, it takes staff time.

Avoid “despite of” and a bare subject + finite verb after despite.

Write a balanced recommendation, then identify its limitation.

Use the pattern to communicate a real meaning, not just to fill a gap.

Evidence, contrast and judgment

1. Does the survey establish that most potential users prefer B? Why or why not?

Your answer / evidence

2. Rewrite using despite: Although the room is small, it can serve different groups.

Your answer / evidence

3. Correct: Despite of the timetable is clear, it may exclude evening users.

Your answer / evidence

4. Recommend A or B and name one finding that would make you reconsider.

Your answer / evidence

Another attempt / questions for your tutor

Check the meaning first. Then compare your answer with the teacher notes.

Present a recommendation with limits

Role A

You favor predictable quiet hours.

Explain why access after work matters.

Acknowledge one drawback of your preferred proposal.

Role B

You favor shared use and simple administration.

Ask whether the survey represents all users.

Suggest a trial measure that could challenge your own view.

Decide together

Agree on one proposal or a clearly described compromise.

Give a short recommendation using although or despite.

Name two observations to collect during the four-week trial.

Our final message / useful corrections

I can defend a recommendation, acknowledge a limitation and identify evidence that could change my mind.