

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSS the Paradox

A paradox is a contradictory statement, situation or idea. Below are two scenarios that each feature a paradox. Write a short explanation of why each is a paradox.

I. Scientists have discovered time travel. John goes back in time and meets his great-grandfather as a young child. John invites the boy to see the circus. Unfortunately, there's a fire at the circus which kills the boy. What is the paradox?

II. Leslie tells her friends at school that she lost her cell phone at the basketball game that afternoon. "If you find it, call or text me." What is the paradox?

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**Actual student answers will vary. Answers should include references to the following:**

**If John's great-grandfather was killed as a child, John would not have been born.**

**John would not have been able to travel back in time to take his great-grandfather to**

**the circus. So his grandfather would not have been killed. If his grandfather had not**

**been killed, John would have been born and could travel through time, etc.**

II. Leslie tells her friends at school that she lost her cell phone at the basketball game that afternoon. "If you find it, call or text me." What is the paradox?

**If the cell phone is lost, then Leslie could not receive a text or call that it had been**

**found. If she receives a text or call, then her cell phone is not lost.**