# The Last Word

Trace how an argument reaches its ending.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.1e** "Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the concluding section, then number the earlier reasons that it brings together so you can see how the ending follows the argument.

### Later Starts for Middle School

1. Middle schools should begin classes later in the morning. Many students arrive before they have had enough sleep, especially when buses pick them up early. Sleep helps people focus, remember information, and manage moods. A later start would not solve every problem students face, but it could give more students a better chance to arrive alert. Schools could adjust bus routes, activity times, or other parts of the schedule to make this change possible for families.

2. Research supports this idea. The American Academy of Pediatrics has said that middle and high schools should aim for start times of 8:30 a.m. or later so teenagers can get enough sleep. In one study of Seattle students, moving high school start times later was linked to longer sleep and better grades. Although each district must consider transportation and family schedules, these findings show that a later start can support learning, not simply make mornings more comfortable.

3. For these reasons, middle schools should move their start times later when they can do so safely and fairly. Students need sleep to learn well, and research connects later starts with more sleep and improved school performance. District leaders should study their transportation plans and ask families for input before making a change. A thoughtful later schedule would put students' readiness to learn at the center of each school day for every student who attends.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the sentence that states the writer's final position.

2. What two main ideas does the concluding section bring together to support the writer's recommendation?

3. Why does the writer include the sentence about district leaders studying transportation plans and asking families for input?

4. Does the final sentence add new evidence or close the argument? Use one detail from that sentence to explain your answer.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you argued that your school should install covered bike racks. Your reasons were that racks protect bikes from rain and encourage students to ride. Write a two-sentence conclusion that restates the claim, brings both reasons together, and does not introduce a new reason.

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## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the concluding section, then number the earlier reasons that it brings together so you can see how the ending follows the argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Copy the sentence that states the writer's final position. | **For these reasons, middle schools should move their start times later when they can do so safely and fairly.** |
| 2 | What two main ideas does the concluding section bring together to support the writer's recommendation? | **Students need sleep to learn well, and research links later start times to more sleep and improved school performance.** |
| 3 | Why does the writer include the sentence about district leaders studying transportation plans and asking families for input? | **It explains a practical, fair way to make the recommended change.** |
| 4 | Does the final sentence add new evidence or close the argument? Use one detail from that sentence to explain your answer. | **It closes the argument because it returns to the main benefit, putting students' readiness to learn at the center of the school day.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

For these reasons, our school should install covered bike racks. They would protect bicycles from rain and make riding to school a more practical choice for students.

Accept conclusions that clearly restate the claim and connect both given reasons without adding a different reason. Wording may vary, but the response must be exactly two sentences.