

Pick a Side

Sort reasons by the position they take.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1a “Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

SUPPORTS THE CLAIM

A supporting statement gives a reason the main claim is a good idea. It points to a benefit or positive result.

A garden could provide vegetables for nearby families.

OPPOSES THE CLAIM

An opposing statement gives a reason someone might disagree with the main claim. It points to a concern, cost, or drawback.

The town has no plan for watering plants during summer.

1 SORT

8 items

The claim is “Our school should begin at 8:30 a.m.”, so circle SUPPORTS or OPPOSES for each statement, then choose two statements and explain how each one connects to the claim.

1. Students could sleep longer, which may help them focus in class.

SUPPORTS

OPPOSES

2. After-school teams would end later in the evening.

SUPPORTS

OPPOSES

3. Families might need to change morning childcare plans.

SUPPORTS

OPPOSES

4. More rested students may participate more during first period.

SUPPORTS

OPPOSES

5. Buses could run after dark in winter.

SUPPORTS

OPPOSES

6. A later start could reduce tardiness for students who travel far.

SUPPORTS

OPPOSES

7. Teachers could have more alert students during morning lessons.

SUPPORTS

OPPOSES

8. Starting later would match research about teen sleep cycles.

SUPPORTS

OPPOSES

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new statement that SUPPORTS the 8:30 a.m. start claim and one new statement that OPPOSES it.

SUPPORTS _____

OPPOSES _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-sentence mini-argument for an 8:30 a.m. start: state the claim in the first sentence, then acknowledge one opposing reason and explain why the claim is still stronger in the second sentence.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Students could sleep longer, which may help them focus in class.	SUPPORTS	More sleep and focus are benefits of a later start.
2	After-school teams would end later in the evening.	OPPOSES	Later activities are a possible drawback of a later start.
3	Families might need to change morning childcare plans.	OPPOSES	Childcare changes are a concern about a later start.
4	More rested students may participate more during first period.	SUPPORTS	Greater participation is a benefit of a later start.
5	Buses could run after dark in winter.	OPPOSES	Traveling after dark is a possible concern.
6	A later start could reduce tardiness for students who travel far.	SUPPORTS	Reduced tardiness is a benefit of a later start.
7	Teachers could have more alert students during morning lessons.	SUPPORTS	More alert students are a benefit of a later start.
8	Starting later would match research about teen sleep cycles.	SUPPORTS	Research about teen sleep supports the later-start claim.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SUPPORTS:** A later start could give students time to eat breakfast before school.
- **OPPOSES:** Working parents may struggle to supervise children before a later school start.

Challenge: Our school should start at 8:30 a.m. Although some families may need to adjust childcare plans, students' improved sleep and focus make the later start worthwhile.

Items 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8 are SUPPORTS; items 2, 3, and 5 are OPPOSES. In Part 2, accept explanations that connect each selected statement to a benefit or drawback of an 8:30 a.m. start.