The Last Word

Study how a conclusion brings an argument to a clear close.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1e "Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the concluding paragraph. In that paragraph, circle the words that link back to earlier reasons, then write 1 and 2 beside the two reasons it brings together.

A Later Bell

1 Middle schools should begin classes later in the morning. Many eighth graders arrive before they are fully alert, especially when buses pick them up soon after sunrise. A later start would not mean students work less. It would give them a better chance to arrive ready to listen, discuss, and solve problems. Schools could adjust schedules by shortening passing time or moving some activities, rather than simply adding hours to the day. This change could fit within existing transportation plans.

2 Sleep researchers recommend that teenagers get eight to ten hours of sleep each night. Yet homework, family responsibilities, and early bus schedules can make that goal difficult. In 2014, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later to help students get enough sleep. Districts that consider a later start should also ask families and bus staff about practical concerns. Planning carefully can reduce conflicts while protecting students' rest.

3 For these reasons, a later school start is a sensible change, not a luxury. The evidence about teen sleep shows that alert students are more prepared to learn, and thoughtful scheduling can address transportation concerns. School leaders should study local bus routes and family needs, then set a start time that gives adolescents a healthier morning. Choosing a later start would show that the district values both strong learning and the well-being of its students.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence in paragraph 3 clearly signals that the writer is concluding? Copy it.

2. What two earlier reasons does the conclusion bring together? State each reason.

3. What action does the conclusion urge school leaders to take?

4. How does the final sentence support the writer's claim instead of only repeating it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence conclusion for an argument that your school should offer a quiet study room during lunch. Restate the claim in a fresh way, connect it to both focused work and access to help, and end with a specific action.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the concluding paragraph. In that paragraph, circle the words that link back to earlier reasons, then write 1 and 2 beside the two reasons it brings together. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence in paragraph 3 clearly signals that the writer is concluding? Copy it.	**For these reasons, a later school start is a sensible change, not a luxury.**
2	What two earlier reasons does the conclusion bring together? State each reason.	**Teenagers need enough sleep to arrive alert and prepared to learn, and careful scheduling can address transportation concerns.**
3	What action does the conclusion urge school leaders to take?	**Study local bus routes and family needs, then set a later start time that gives adolescents a healthier morning.**
4	How does the final sentence support the writer's claim instead of only repeating it?	**It connects a later start to strong learning and students' well-being, giving the district reasons to choose the change.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A quiet study room at lunch would give students a practical place to finish work and ask for help without distractions. By creating this space, the school can support focused learning and make academic help easier to reach, so administrators should open a supervised room each day.

Accept conclusions that clearly follow from the stated argument, connect to both required reasons, and end with a specific action. Student wording may vary, but the response must contain exactly two sentences.