

Evidence, Not Heat

Read a formal proposal that uses evidence, limits, and respectful responses to concerns.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1d "Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words or phrases that make the proposal sound formal and objective. Circle each source or data reference, and number the paragraph that addresses a possible concern.

Public Comment on High School Start Times

- ① To the Riverview School Board: I recommend that the district move the high school start time from 7:25 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. or later. This change would better match research on adolescent sleep. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools begin at 8:30 a.m. or later so students can obtain sufficient sleep. Because transportation, athletics, and family schedules would be affected, the board should review costs and routes before adopting a new schedule. A phased plan, beginning with one school year of preparation, would allow the district to identify practical concerns.
- ② Available evidence supports examining this proposal. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that teenagers need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night. In its 2014 policy statement, the American Academy of Pediatrics linked later school start times with an opportunity for students to get the sleep they need. These sources do not prove that a schedule change alone will improve every student's attendance or grades. However, they provide a reasonable basis for considering a start time that supports adolescent health. The board can also collect local attendance, tardiness, and transportation data before making a final decision.
- ③ Some community members may worry that later dismissal would interfere with jobs, sports, or child care. That concern deserves consideration, rather than dismissal. The district could consult coaches, employers, bus staff, and families, then publish several schedule options with estimated costs. It could also explain how each option would affect elementary and middle school routes. After reviewing public comments and local data, the board should select the option that best balances student health with operational limits. A careful process would not guarantee agreement, but it would make the decision transparent and based on relevant evidence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What specific schedule change does the writer recommend, and what practical factors does the writer say the board should review?

2 Name the two expert organizations the writer cites. What specific sleep range does the passage include?

3 Copy the sentence that prevents the writer from overstating what the evidence can prove.

4 How does the final paragraph address a concern without using dismissive language? State the concern and one action the writer proposes.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 90 to 120 word, three-paragraph formal recommendation to school leaders about a school policy. State a clear claim, cite one credible source or specific school data, acknowledge one concern, and propose a practical response in an objective tone.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases that make the proposal sound formal and objective. Circle each source or data reference, and number the paragraph that addresses a possible concern. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What specific schedule change does the writer recommend, and what practical factors does the writer say the board should review?	The writer recommends moving the high school start time from 7:25 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. or later. The board should review transportation, athletics, family schedules, costs, and routes.
2	Name the two expert organizations the writer cites. What specific sleep range does the passage include?	The writer cites the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The passage states that teenagers need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night.
3	Copy the sentence that prevents the writer from overstating what the evidence can prove.	These sources do not prove that a schedule change alone will improve every student's attendance or grades.
4	How does the final paragraph address a concern without using dismissive language? State the concern and one action the writer proposes.	The concern is that later dismissal could interfere with jobs, sports, or child care. The writer proposes consulting coaches, employers, bus staff, and families, or publishing schedule options with estimated costs.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend that the school install water refill stations in the cafeteria and main hallway. The policy would give students a convenient option for filling reusable bottles during the day. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that reducing waste conserves resources and can reduce the amount of material sent to landfills. The school could track the number of disposable bottles purchased before and after installation to evaluate the policy. Installation costs may concern the administration. The school could request vendor estimates, seek a community grant, and install one station first. This limited trial would provide local cost and use data before a larger purchase.

Accept equivalent answers that accurately identify the passage's claim, evidence, qualification, and response to concerns. For the writing task, look for three paragraphs, a formal and objective tone, a relevant source or data point, and a practical response to a stated concern.