The Last Word

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1e "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 Circle the concluding section in paragraph 3, then underline the three ideas it uses to support the writer's position.

Start School Later

1. At 7:20 a.m., many high school students are still fighting their body clocks. The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that middle and high schools begin at 8:30 a.m. or later because adolescent sleep cycles shift later during puberty. Our district should move its high school start time to 8:45. A later bell would not erase homework or busy schedules, but it would give students a better chance to arrive alert, learn effectively, and drive more safely. This change would address a real barrier to learning rather than asking tired teenagers to simply try harder.

2. Sleep is not merely a comfort issue. Teenagers generally need eight to ten hours of sleep each night, yet early schedules can make that goal difficult, especially when buses arrive before sunrise. Research summarized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention links insufficient sleep in adolescents with poorer attention, lower academic performance, and increased risk-taking. A later start would also help families: students who are more awake may be less likely to rush through breakfast, miss the bus, or struggle to focus during first period. These benefits make schedule planning an educational and safety concern.

3. Some people worry that changing the bell schedule would disrupt sports, jobs, and elementary bus routes. Those concerns deserve planning, not dismissal. The district could adjust practice times, coordinate bus routes in stages, and survey families about transportation needs before making the change. Schools in many communities already manage different schedules for different grade levels. Because a later start responds to adolescent sleep needs, strengthens students' readiness to learn, and can be planned carefully around community needs, the district should adopt an 8:45 high school start time next year. Delaying this decision keeps a preventable obstacle in place for students every morning.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What action does the writer call for in the concluding section?

2. Name two reasons from the argument that the conclusion brings together.

3. How does the conclusion respond to concerns about sports, jobs, and bus routes?

4. How does the final sentence strengthen the writer's conclusion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Your school is considering a required financial literacy course. The argument is that the school should require it because students need to learn budgeting and responsible credit use before graduation, although some people worry it would reduce elective choices. Write exactly two sentences that conclude this argument by bringing together the reasons and responding to the concern.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the concluding section in paragraph 3, then underline the three ideas it uses to support the writer's position. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What action does the writer call for in the concluding section?	**The district should adopt an 8:45 high school start time next year.**
2	Name two reasons from the argument that the conclusion brings together.	**It cites adolescent sleep needs and students' readiness to learn. It also notes that community needs can be planned for.**
3	How does the conclusion respond to concerns about sports, jobs, and bus routes?	**It says the change can be planned carefully around community needs.**
4	How does the final sentence strengthen the writer's conclusion?	**It adds urgency by saying that delaying the decision leaves a preventable daily obstacle for students.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A required financial literacy course would prepare students for choices they will face beyond high school. By teaching budgeting and responsible credit use while offering flexible scheduling to protect electives, the course would give every student practical knowledge worth making room for.

Accept conclusions that clearly support requiring the course, synthesize budgeting and credit use, and address the elective concern. The response must contain exactly two sentences.