Ending With Purpose

Trace how a conclusion completes an argument.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1e "Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from or supports the argument presented."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the concluding paragraph. In the margin, number the two earlier ideas that the conclusion brings together to support its final recommendation.

A Later Bell for Riverton

1. Riverton High School should begin classes at 8:30 a.m. rather than 7:45. The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that middle and high schools start at 8:30 or later because adolescents' sleep cycles shift later during puberty. A later bell would not simply offer students extra comfort. It would give many students a better chance to get the eight to ten hours of sleep that teenagers generally need. When students arrive rested, they are more prepared to listen, solve problems, and participate in class.

2. Changing the schedule would require planning, especially for buses, sports, and families' work routines. However, districts that consider a later start can study transportation routes and ask families about local needs before making a decision. Riverton could also protect after-school activities by adjusting practice times or using study periods more efficiently. These steps do not erase every challenge, but they show that the schedule is a problem to manage, not a reason to ignore students' health. A careful transition plan would make the policy more practical.

3. Riverton should therefore adopt an 8:30 start time and phase it in with a transportation and activities plan. The evidence about adolescent sleep shows why the change matters for learning, while the planning steps show how the school can address reasonable concerns. Keeping the earlier schedule may seem easier in the short term, but convenience should not outweigh students' ability to arrive ready to learn. By choosing a later start and preparing for its effects, the school can make a practical decision that puts student health and classroom learning first.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What action does the concluding paragraph recommend that Riverton take?

2. Which two main ideas from the earlier paragraphs does the conclusion combine?

3. How does the sentence about convenience and students arriving ready to learn support the conclusion?

4. What phrase in the conclusion shows that the writer has addressed practical concerns, not only the benefits of sleep?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A student council argues that the school should create a supervised quiet lunch space. Its reasons are that a less crowded setting could help some students eat calmly, and an unused conference room is available. Write a 55 to 70 word conclusion in exactly three sentences that restates the position, connects both reasons, and ends with the larger result of the decision.

ANSWER KEY

Ending With Purpose

HIGH SCHOOL · WHST.11-12.1e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the concluding paragraph. In the margin, number the two earlier ideas that the conclusion brings together to support its final recommendation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What action does the concluding paragraph recommend that Riverton take?	**Adopt an 8:30 start time and phase it in with a transportation and activities plan.**
2	Which two main ideas from the earlier paragraphs does the conclusion combine?	**It combines the need for more adolescent sleep to support learning with the need to plan for transportation and activities.**
3	How does the sentence about convenience and students arriving ready to learn support the conclusion?	**It argues that keeping the earlier schedule may be easier, but student readiness to learn matters more than short-term convenience.**
4	What phrase in the conclusion shows that the writer has addressed practical concerns, not only the benefits of sleep?	**"Phase it in with a transportation and activities plan" or "preparing for its effects."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Creating a supervised quiet lunch space is a sensible use of the school's available resources. Because a less crowded setting can help students who need calm during lunch, and an unused conference room can serve that purpose, the plan addresses both student needs and practicality. The school should make this small change so more students can return to afternoon classes ready to focus.

Accept conclusions that clearly recommend the quiet lunch space, synthesize both the student-need and available-room reasons, and end with a logical implication. Responses must contain exactly three sentences and 55 to 70 words.