Claim Clash Sort

Sort support from opposition in an argument.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.1a "Introduce claim(s) about a topic or issue, 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 or evidence that backs up a claim. It helps show why the claim may be a good idea.

Trees provide shade on hot days.

OPPOSES THE CLAIM

An opposing statement gives a different position or a reason not to accept a claim. It points out a concern, drawback, or alternate choice.

The city should repair damaged sidewalks first.

1 SORT

8 items

For each statement about the claim "Our school should start at 8:30 a.m.," circle SUPPORTS or OPPOSES.

1.	More sleep can help teenagers stay alert in class.	SUPPORTS OPPOSES
2.	Later starts could give students more time to sleep.	SUPPORTS OPPOSES
3.	Some students might have trouble getting to after-school jobs.	SUPPORTS OPPOSES
4.	Tired students may struggle to focus during first period.	SUPPORTS OPPOSES
5.	The current start time lets practices end earlier.	SUPPORTS OPPOSES
6.	A later dismissal could reduce time for family responsibilities.	SUPPORTS OPPOSES
7.	Research links later school starts with more sleep for teenagers.	SUPPORTS OPPOSES
8.	Schools should keep their current start time.	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 SUPPORTS example and one new OPPOSES example about the school start-time claim.

SUPPORTS _____

OPPOSES _____

CHALLENGE

Write a four-sentence response about later school starts. State the claim first, give two supporting reasons or pieces of evidence in a logical order, then acknowledge one opposing claim.

ANSWER KEY

Claim Clash Sort

GRADE 7 · WHST.6-8.1a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	More sleep can help teenagers stay alert in class.	**SUPPORTS**	This gives a benefit of a later start time.
2	Later starts could give students more time to sleep.	**SUPPORTS**	This gives a reason to support the claim.
3	Some students might have trouble getting to after-school jobs.	**OPPOSES**	This gives a possible drawback of a later start.
4	Tired students may struggle to focus during first period.	**SUPPORTS**	This gives a reason that supports later starts.
5	The current start time lets practices end earlier.	**OPPOSES**	This gives a reason to keep the current start time.
6	A later dismissal could reduce time for family responsibilities.	**OPPOSES**	This gives a possible concern about the claim.
7	Research links later school starts with more sleep for teenagers.	**SUPPORTS**	This is evidence that supports the claim.
8	Schools should keep their current start time.	**OPPOSES**	This states an alternate 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**: Students could use extra morning time to eat breakfast before class.
- **OPPOSES**: A later dismissal could make it harder for some students to attend evening jobs.

Challenge: Our school should start at 8:30 a.m. First, many teenagers need more sleep to stay alert in class. Research also links later school starts with more sleep for teenagers. Some students may need time for after-school jobs, but a later start would still help students arrive ready to learn.

For Part 2, students should correctly identify one supporting statement and one opposing statement, then explain each statement's role. For the challenge, check for a clear claim, two logically ordered supports, and an acknowledged opposing claim.