Pick a Side

Sort reasons around a school-start claim.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.9-10.1a "Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among the claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SUPPORTS THE CLAIM

A supporting statement gives a reason or evidence for the main claim. It helps show why the claim should be accepted.

The town should build a protected bike lane because cyclists would have a safer place to ride.

OPPOSES THE CLAIM

An opposing statement gives a counterclaim or a reason against the main claim. It shows a different position that writers should address.

A protected bike lane could remove parking spaces that nearby stores depend on.

1 SORT

8 items

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

1.	Research on adolescent sleep shows that many teens naturally fall asleep later than adults.	SUPPORTS OPPOSES
2.	Students who sleep longer are often more alert during morning classes.	SUPPORTS OPPOSES
3.	A later dismissal could make it harder for some students to reach evening jobs on time.	SUPPORTS OPPOSES
4.	Schools with later starts may see fewer tardy students.	SUPPORTS OPPOSES
5.	Changing bus schedules could cost the district additional money.	SUPPORTS OPPOSES
6.	Sports practices might end later, leaving less time for homework.	SUPPORTS OPPOSES
7.	An 8:30 start would give students more time to sleep on school nights.	SUPPORTS OPPOSES
8.	Families could need to arrange different child-care plans for younger children.	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 statement and one new OPPOSES statement about the school-start claim.

SUPPORTS _____

OPPOSES _____

CHALLENGE

Write a precise claim about a different school policy. Then write a counterclaim and one reason or piece of evidence for each position.

ANSWER KEY

Pick a Side

HIGH SCHOOL · WHST.9-10.1a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Research on adolescent sleep shows that many teens naturally fall asleep later than adults.	**SUPPORTS**	Later sleep patterns support a later school start.
2	Students who sleep longer are often more alert during morning classes.	**SUPPORTS**	More sleep is a reason in favor of a later start.
3	A later dismissal could make it harder for some students to reach evening jobs on time.	**OPPOSES**	This gives a possible drawback of starting later.
4	Schools with later starts may see fewer tardy students.	**SUPPORTS**	Fewer tardies is a benefit that supports the claim.
5	Changing bus schedules could cost the district additional money.	**OPPOSES**	Added costs are a reason against the change.
6	Sports practices might end later, leaving less time for homework.	**OPPOSES**	Later practices are a possible negative result.
7	An 8:30 start would give students more time to sleep on school nights.	**SUPPORTS**	More available sleep time supports a later start.
8	Families could need to arrange different child-care plans for younger children.	**OPPOSES**	New child-care needs are a possible concern about the change.

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**: A later start could reduce students' need to drive while tired.
- **OPPOSES**: Moving dismissal later could conflict with some after-school jobs.

Challenge: Claim: Our school should provide free menstrual products in all student restrooms. Support: Students need these products during the school day, and access can prevent missed class time. Counterclaim: The school should not provide free products in every restroom. Opposing reason: Purchasing and restocking products requires money and staff time.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. In Part 2, students should connect each chosen statement to a benefit of a later start or a concern about changing the schedule.