

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

Part 2 PROVE IT: Choose two numbered statements. For each one, write SUPPORTS or OPPOSES and explain which idea connects it to the school-start claim. Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN: 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.

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.

Answers: 1 SUPPORTS, 2 SUPPORTS, 3 OPPOSES, 4 SUPPORTS, 5 OPPOSES, 6 OPPOSES, 7 SUPPORTS, 8 OPPOSES. In Part 2, students should connect each chosen statement to a benefit of a later start or a concern about changing the schedule.