Later Bell Case

Study how a model argument builds and supports a claim.

ELA.6.C.1.3 "Write and support a claim using logical reasoning, relevant evidence from sources, elaboration, and a logical organizational structure with varied transitions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the claim and the three source-based pieces of evidence; circle only these four bold transition words: First, In addition, However, and Therefore; number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to show the organization.

A Better Time to Learn

1 Middle schools should begin no earlier than 8:30 a.m. The American Academy of Pediatrics states that middle and high schools should aim for start times of 8:30 a.m. or later, so students can get enough sleep. Teen bodies naturally release melatonin later at night, which can make early bedtimes difficult. A later bell does not guarantee that every student sleeps more. It gives students a better chance to rest before morning lessons each school day.

2 **First**, sleep supports learning and health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that students who do not get enough sleep are more likely to have poor mental health, behavior, and academic performance. **In addition**, a 2018 study of Seattle high school students found that a 55-minute later start was linked to 34 more minutes of sleep per night. That result suggests that a later schedule can give adolescents valuable rest on school nights.

3 **However**, changing a start time can create problems. Bus routes, sports practices, and family schedules may need adjustments. District leaders should plan carefully with transportation staff and families before making a change. The possible inconvenience is smaller than the cost of students regularly arriving tired. **Therefore**, schools should set later start times when they can build a workable schedule. This plan uses health evidence, addresses a concern, and returns clearly to the claim for readers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's claim? Give one detail from the American Academy of Pediatrics that supports it.

2. How does the detail about melatonin add logical reasoning to the claim?

3. What did the Seattle study find, and how does that finding support the writer's claim?

4. What concern does **However** introduce? How does **Therefore** help the writer return to the claim?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 7-sentence argument explaining whether middle schools should start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. State a claim, use at least two source-based details from the passage, address one concern, and use at least four transition words or phrases.

ANSWER KEY

Later Bell Case

GRADE 6 · ELA.6.C.1.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the claim and the three source-based pieces of evidence; circle only these four bold transition words: First, In addition, However, and Therefore; number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to show the organization. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's claim? Give one detail from the American Academy of Pediatrics that supports it.	**The claim is that middle schools should start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. The American Academy of Pediatrics says middle and high schools should aim for 8:30 a.m. or later.**
2	How does the detail about melatonin add logical reasoning to the claim?	**It explains that teens may have difficulty falling asleep early because their bodies release melatonin later at night. A later start gives them more opportunity to get enough sleep.**
3	What did the Seattle study find, and how does that finding support the writer's claim?	**The study found that a 55-minute later start was linked to 34 more minutes of sleep per night. This supports the claim because it shows that later starts can help adolescents get more rest.**
4	What concern does **However** introduce? How does **Therefore** help the writer return to the claim?	**However introduces concerns about bus routes, sports practices, and family schedules. Therefore leads to the conclusion that schools should use later starts when they can create a workable schedule.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Middle schools should start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. First, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 8:30 or later for middle and high schools. Also, the CDC reports that too little sleep is connected to poor mental health, behavior, and academic performance. The Seattle study adds evidence because its students slept 34 more minutes after a 55-minute later start. Some people worry that buses and sports schedules would need changes. However, districts can plan with transportation staff and families. Therefore, the health benefits make a workable later schedule worth creating.

Accept equivalent claims and accurate paraphrases of the cited evidence. For the open response, look for a clear position, at least two relevant source details, explanation, a counterclaim with response, and four meaningful transitions.