The Later Bell

Analyze how a model argument builds a claim and answers an opposing view.

ELA.8.C.1.3 "Write to argue a position, supporting at least one claim and rebutting at least one counterclaim with logical reasoning, credible evidence from sources, elaboration, and using a logical organizational structure."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's claim and each reason that supports it. Circle evidence from a source, then number the counterclaim and the rebuttal.

Why the First Bell Should Ring Later

1 Our middle school should begin at 8:30 a.m. or later. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later because teenagers' biological clocks shift later during puberty. When the first bell rings too early, many students arrive tired before challenging classes even begin. A later start would not solve every sleep problem, but it would give students a schedule that better matches how adolescent bodies naturally sleep. For these reasons, the district should move the opening bell.

2 Some families may worry that a later bell would push sports, jobs, and bus routes later into the day. That concern deserves planning, yet it does not outweigh students' need for sleep. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that most middle and high school students do not get enough sleep on school nights. District leaders could adjust practice schedules and coordinate buses rather than keep a schedule that makes learning harder. A careful change would address transportation while protecting time for rest.

3 Research also suggests that later schedules can help. In a 2018 study in Science Advances, researchers examined Seattle high school students after start time moved 55 minutes later. Students slept 34 minutes longer each night, on average, and their median grades rose 4.5 percent. Seattle is not our district, so its results cannot predict every outcome here. Still, the study gives local leaders evidence to consider alongside bus costs, family schedules, and student health. The strongest choice is a planned 8:30 start.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's central claim?

2. What counterclaim does the author recognize, and how does the author rebut it?

3. How does the CDC evidence support the author's claim?

4. Why does the author admit that Seattle's results cannot predict every outcome in this district?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90 to 120 word paragraph arguing whether your school should add a water-bottle refill station. State a claim, include evidence from a credible source you name, and rebut one counterclaim with logical reasoning.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's claim and each reason that supports it. Circle evidence from a source, then number the counterclaim and the rebuttal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's central claim?	**The district should start middle school at 8:30 a.m. or later.**
2	What counterclaim does the author recognize, and how does the author rebut it?	**The counterclaim is that a later start could make sports, jobs, and bus routes later. The author rebuts it by saying leaders can adjust practice schedules and coordinate buses to protect students' sleep.**
3	How does the CDC evidence support the author's claim?	**The CDC reports that most middle and high school students do not get enough sleep on school nights, which supports the need for a schedule that gives students more time to rest.**
4	Why does the author admit that Seattle's results cannot predict every outcome in this district?	**The author shows that the evidence has a limit because Seattle is a different district, while still explaining that the study is useful evidence for local leaders to consider.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a water-bottle refill station near the cafeteria. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that source reduction, using less material in the first place, conserves resources and reduces waste. If students can refill reusable bottles easily, fewer may need single-use bottles during the day. Some people may argue that installation costs too much. However, installation is a one-time expense, while a durable station can serve students for years. A refill station is a practical step that supports waste reduction and gives students easy access to water each day.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the claim, evidence, counterclaim, and rebuttal when they are supported by the passage. For the writing task, accept varied positions if the response includes a clear claim, named credible source, relevant evidence, counterclaim, logical rebuttal, and organized reasoning.