Evidence Has a View

Trace how selected evidence shapes an argument.

6.T.C.2.b "Explain how the author's choice of evidence reveals the author's perspective and impacts credibility. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each piece of evidence the author uses. Circle any evidence the author says is missing, then number the sources from most to least credible.

The Case for Later Starts

1. Middle schools should begin at 8:30 a.m. or later, because students need sleep to learn well. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends start times of 8:30 or later for middle and high schools. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that most middle and high school students do not get enough sleep on school nights. By choosing advice from national health groups, I show that later starts are more than a personal preference. They are a health and learning issue.

2. Research from Seattle adds classroom evidence. In a 2018 study published in Science Advances, researchers found that high school students slept about 34 minutes longer after their school day began 55 minutes later. Their median grades also rose by 4.5 percent. This study does not prove that every middle school will have the same result, since it examined two high schools. Still, I include it because it measures student sleep and grades instead of relying only on opinions.

3. Later starts can create problems for bus schedules, sports, and families' work routines. I mention these concerns, but I spend most of my evidence on benefits. I do not give cost estimates, transportation data, or comments from families who might struggle with a new schedule. That choice reveals my support for later starts. The strong health sources make my claim believable, yet the missing local evidence makes my argument less complete. A school board should seek both benefits and challenges before deciding.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's perspective on middle school start times? Name two evidence choices that support this perspective.

2. How does using advice from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC affect the credibility of the author's claim?

3. What limit of the Seattle study does the author point out? How does naming that limit affect credibility?

4. What evidence does the author leave out, and what does that missing evidence show about the author's perspective?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school decision you care about. In 3 or 4 sentences, state your claim, name two kinds of evidence you would use, and explain how your evidence choices would reveal your perspective and affect your credibility.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence Has a View

GRADE 6 · 6.T.C.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each piece of evidence the author uses. Circle any evidence the author says is missing, then number the sources from most to least credible. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's perspective on middle school start times? Name two evidence choices that support this perspective.	**The author supports later start times. The author uses recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC, plus the Seattle study about sleep and grades.**
2	How does using advice from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC affect the credibility of the author's claim?	**These are national health organizations, so their advice makes the claim more credible than a claim based only on personal opinion.**
3	What limit of the Seattle study does the author point out? How does naming that limit affect credibility?	**The study examined two high schools, not every middle school. Naming the limit makes the author seem more careful and honest about what the evidence can prove.**
4	What evidence does the author leave out, and what does that missing evidence show about the author's perspective?	**The author leaves out cost estimates, transportation data, and comments from affected families. This shows the author focuses more on benefits of later starts and makes the argument less complete.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I think our school should create a quiet study room. I would use library use records and an anonymous student survey because both could show whether students need a calm place to work. These choices reveal that I value student learning, and my response would be more credible if I also included information about available space and staffing.

Accept claims that clearly identify two relevant evidence types and explain both perspective and credibility. Students may use different school decisions and reasonable evidence, as long as they address possible limits or missing information.