The Later Bell

Trace a central position, its support, and its response to a concern.

7.T.C.2.a "Determine the prevailing perspective in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes or corroborates that position. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the first sentence that clearly states the author's main position. Circle details that support it, then write 1 beside the opposing concern and 2 beside the author's response to that concern.

Why School Should Begin Later

1 Many middle schools should start later, not because students want extra free time, but because sleep affects learning. The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that middle and high schools begin at 8:30 a.m. or later. During puberty, many teens naturally fall asleep later than younger children. When a bus arrives before sunrise, students may have to wake before their bodies are ready. A later bell can give students a better chance to arrive alert and prepared.

2 Some families worry that a later start would push sports, jobs, or child care later into the afternoon. That concern matters, especially in communities where buses serve several schools on one schedule. Still, districts can study bus routes, ask families about needs, and adjust practice times before changing the bell. The concern about schedules is different from evidence about sleep. It explains a challenge to solve, but it does not show that early starts help students learn. A careful plan can address both health and family routines.

3 Research from districts that changed start times adds support to this view. A 2018 study of Seattle public high schools found that students slept longer after later start times, and their grades improved slightly. One study cannot prove that every school will get the same result, since schedules and communities differ. Yet the finding matches what sleep researchers expect when teenagers get more rest. Schools should use local data and family feedback, but they should treat a later start as a serious option rather than dismissing it as a convenience.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's prevailing perspective about middle school start times?

2. Which two details most clearly support the author's position?

3. How does the author distinguish the concern about schedules from the evidence about sleep?

4. Why does the author say that one study cannot prove every school will have the same result?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school policy that you think should change. Write four sentences that state your position, name an opposing concern, explain why that concern does not outweigh your position, and include two specific reasons that support your view.

ANSWER KEY

The Later Bell

GRADE 7 · 7.T.C.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the first sentence that clearly states the author's main position. Circle details that support it, then write 1 beside the opposing concern and 2 beside the author's response to that concern. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's prevailing perspective about middle school start times?	**The author believes that many middle schools should start later because teenagers need more sleep to learn and arrive alert.**
2	Which two details most clearly support the author's position?	**The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends start times of 8:30 a.m. or later, and the Seattle study found that students slept longer and their grades improved slightly after later start times.**
3	How does the author distinguish the concern about schedules from the evidence about sleep?	**The author treats schedules as a real challenge to solve through planning, but says that the concern does not prove early starts help students learn.**
4	Why does the author say that one study cannot prove every school will have the same result?	**The author recognizes that schools and communities have different schedules and conditions, which makes the argument more careful and qualified.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add water refill stations near the gym and cafeteria. Some people may argue that the stations cost too much to install. However, refill stations can help students use reusable bottles instead of buying single-use plastic bottles, and they give students a quick place to get water during the day. The cost concern is a budget issue to plan for, not a reason to ignore these benefits.

Accept equivalent statements of the author's position and any accurate passage details used as support. For the open response, accept varied policies if the student clearly states a position, distinguishes an opposing concern, and gives two relevant supporting reasons.