Start Time Detective

Judge which sources can guide a school decision.

7.T.RA.2.b "Analyze print and digital texts for credibility and relevance, determining whether the ideas and information support the topic under investigation. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that help answer whether Westview should start classes later. Circle clues about who created each source or what evidence it gives, then number the three sources from most credible to least credible for this decision.

Should Westview Start Later?

1. Westview Middle School is considering starting classes 20 minutes later next year. To study the idea, the student council opened a digital district attendance report. It shows that, during the first semester, 146 students arrived late at least five times. The report lists dates, totals, and the district data office as its author. It does not explain why students were late, and it does not compare Westview with schools that begin at different times each morning.

2. A printed article in the Westview Weekly argues that later classes would help everyone feel rested. The writer quotes one eighth-grade basketball player, who says practice makes homework hard after an early morning. The article also reports that "most students" favor the change, but it gives no poll questions, number of students, or date. Its author is a staff reporter, not a sleep researcher. The player's experience relates to the topic, yet one opinion cannot show what would happen for all students.

3. On its website, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools aim for start times of 8:30 a.m. or later. The group is a professional organization of pediatricians, and its statement cites sleep research. This source is credible for health effects, but it does not tell Westview whether buses, after-school jobs, or family schedules could change. For that local question, the council would need a transportation schedule and a survey that names who responded and when.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which source is most credible for deciding how a later start time might affect student sleep? Give two clues from the passage that support your judgment.

2. Which source gives relevant local information but cannot prove that the school start time caused students to arrive late? Explain why.

3. How does the Westview Weekly article fall short as evidence for what most students want?

4. What two kinds of local information does the passage say the council needs to judge whether a later start time could work?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a different school decision, such as adding a club, changing lunch, or improving a school space. In three sentences, name one print or digital source you would use, explain why it is credible and relevant, and name one limitation or another source you would need.

ANSWER KEY

Start Time Detective

GRADE 7 · 7.T.RA.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that help answer whether Westview should start classes later. Circle clues about who created each source or what evidence it gives, then number the three sources from most credible to least credible for this decision. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source is most credible for deciding how a later start time might affect student sleep? Give two clues from the passage that support your judgment.	**The American Academy of Pediatrics website. It is from a professional organization of pediatricians and cites sleep research.**
2	Which source gives relevant local information but cannot prove that the school start time caused students to arrive late? Explain why.	**The district attendance report. It gives local tardy totals, dates, and an identified author, but it does not explain why students were late or compare schools with different start times.**
3	How does the Westview Weekly article fall short as evidence for what most students want?	**It gives no poll questions, number of students, or date, and it relies partly on one basketball player's opinion.**
4	What two kinds of local information does the passage say the council needs to judge whether a later start time could work?	**A transportation schedule and a survey that identifies who responded and when.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

To investigate whether Westview needs more water-bottle filling stations, I would use the school facilities office's monthly repair log from this year. It is credible and relevant because the dated log records how often each existing fountain was repaired and where it is located. It cannot show how many students want to use refill stations, so I would also use a dated student survey that states how many students answered.

Accept other credibility rankings only when students use accurate passage details about the author, evidence, and connection to the decision. For Part 3, accept a reasonable source choice if the response explains both credibility and relevance and identifies a real limitation or needed additional source.