Start Time Case

Trace how a writer builds an argument with evidence and a response to another view.

7.T.T.3.c "Apply argumentative techniques (e.g., author's claim, supporting relevant evidence, an identified counterclaim, and a logical conclusion) to enhance writing and engage audiences. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's claim and conclusion, circle each supporting evidence detail, and number the counterclaim 1 and the response to it 2. These marks show how the argument is built.

A Later Bell for Riverview

(1) Riverview Middle School should begin classes at 8:30 a.m. instead of 7:45 a.m. Many students arrive before they are fully awake, especially when buses pick them up early. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later because teens need enough sleep for health, safety, and learning. A later bell would give students more time to sleep, eat breakfast, and arrive ready to focus. This change would support learning from the first class of the day.

(2) Some families may worry that a later start would make after-school sports, jobs, or child care harder to schedule. That concern deserves planning, because buses and activities affect many people. However, schools can move some practice times, coordinate bus routes, and share schedules with families before the change begins. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that insufficient sleep is common among high school students, and early start times can make it harder for adolescents to get enough sleep. A schedule problem can be solved, but students cannot learn well when they are exhausted.

(3) Therefore, the school board should approve a one-year 8:30 a.m. start-time trial for Riverview Middle School. During the trial, the school can compare attendance, tardiness, and student surveys with this year's results. Families should receive bus and activity information several months ahead, so they can plan for new routines. If the trial shows that students arrive more rested and ready to learn, the board should keep the later schedule. This careful plan addresses the scheduling concern while putting student learning and health first.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's main claim?

2. Name one piece of evidence the author uses and explain how it supports the claim.

3. What counterclaim does the author identify, and how does the author respond to it?

4. What action does the author recommend in the conclusion, and why is it logical?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence argument about one change your school should make. Include a clear claim, two relevant reasons or evidence details, a counterclaim with a response, and a logical conclusion that recommends an action.

Start Time Case

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's claim and conclusion, circle each supporting evidence detail, and number the counterclaim 1 and the response to it 2. These marks show how the argument is built. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's main claim?	**Riverview Middle School should begin classes at 8:30 a.m. instead of 7:45 a.m.**
2	Name one piece of evidence the author uses and explain how it supports the claim.	**The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 8:30 a.m. or later for middle and high schools because teens need sleep for health, safety, and learning. This supports the claim that a later start would help students.**
3	What counterclaim does the author identify, and how does the author respond to it?	**Some families may worry about scheduling sports, jobs, or child care. The author responds that schools can adjust practice times, bus routes, and family schedules ahead of time.**
4	What action does the author recommend in the conclusion, and why is it logical?	**The author recommends a one-year 8:30 a.m. trial. It is logical because the school can compare attendance, tardiness, and surveys before deciding whether to keep the change.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should offer a quiet lunch area for students who need a calmer place to eat. A quieter space can help students who feel overwhelmed by noise, and it gives students a place to finish eating without rushing. Some people may say that supervising another area would be difficult. However, the school could use an existing library corner and assign a rotating staff member. Therefore, the principal should test a quiet lunch area for one month and ask students whether it helps.

Accept equivalent wording for the claim, counterclaim, evidence, and conclusion when it matches the passage. For the open response, look for all required argument parts and a conclusion that follows from the reasons and response to the counterclaim.