Evidence Before Bells

Use several texts to make and explain a school decision.

9.P.EICC.2.b "Make use of texts to build knowledge, develop skills, make informed decisions, and share information and ideas. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each piece of evidence the council uses. Circle each limit, condition, or unanswered question, then number the evidence pieces to help you weigh the decision.

Should School Start Later?

1. Riverton High's student council is deciding whether to propose a later first bell. To learn about the issue, members read a summary from the American Academy of Pediatrics, which recommends that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later so teenagers can get enough sleep. They also read a district transportation report. The report explains that the same buses carry elementary, middle, and high school students on different routes. Moving Riverton's start time could require changing other schools' schedules or adding buses. The council needs evidence, not just personal opinions, before it makes a recommendation.

2. Next, the council examines local evidence. In an anonymous survey of 640 Riverton students, 71 percent reported sleeping fewer than eight hours on school nights. Survey responses can show students' experiences, but they cannot prove that an early bell is the only cause of lost sleep. The principal shares attendance records from the previous year, showing that first-period absences were highest on Mondays. A nearby district began high school at 8:35 a.m. two years earlier. Its public report describes fewer first-period tardies after the change, although the report does not show whether other changes also affected tardiness.

3. After reading the materials, council members plan to share their findings with the school board. They decide to recommend a one-year trial with a later first bell, but only if the district can publish a transportation plan before the trial begins. Their draft explains the sleep recommendation, the student survey, and the possible bus problem. It also admits limits in the evidence, including that the nearby district's tardiness change may have had more than one cause. By naming both supporting evidence and unanswered questions, the council gives the board information it can use to decide.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the American Academy of Pediatrics summary contribute to the council's decision?

2. Why does the council need the district transportation report before making a recommendation?

3. Name one claim that the student survey cannot prove. Explain why.

4. How does the council's final recommendation use both evidence and caution?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence message to the school board stating whether it should approve the one-year trial. Use two specific details from the passage, and include one limit or condition the board should consider.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence Before Bells

GRADE 9 · 9.P.EICC.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each piece of evidence the council uses. Circle each limit, condition, or unanswered question, then number the evidence pieces to help you weigh the decision. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the American Academy of Pediatrics summary contribute to the council's decision?	**It recommends that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later so teenagers can get enough sleep.**
2	Why does the council need the district transportation report before making a recommendation?	**A later start could require changing other schools' schedules or adding buses because the same buses serve several school levels.**
3	Name one claim that the student survey cannot prove. Explain why.	**It cannot prove that an early first bell is the only cause of lost sleep because survey responses show students' experiences, not cause and effect.**
4	How does the council's final recommendation use both evidence and caution?	**It recommends a one-year later-bell trial based on the evidence, but requires a transportation plan and acknowledges limits in the tardiness evidence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The board should approve a one-year later-bell trial because the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends starts of 8:30 a.m. or later, and 71 percent of surveyed Riverton students reported fewer than eight hours of sleep. Before the trial begins, the district should publish a transportation plan because shared bus routes could be affected. The board should also remember that the survey does not prove that an early bell is the only cause of lost sleep.

Accept answers that accurately use passage evidence to explain a decision, not just repeat isolated facts. For the open task, require three sentences, two specific details, and a valid limitation or condition from the passage.