

Evidence in Concert

Read how a researcher combines credible sources without overstating a conclusion.

9.T.C.2.d "Synthesize information from a variety of credible sources used to research the answers to questions on academic and individual topics of interest. (C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the name of each of Maya's three sources. Underline one detail from each source that helps answer her question, then number the three underlined details 1, 2, and 3 to show the evidence she combines in her final conclusion.

A Question About School Start Times

- ① To investigate whether later high school start times could improve learning, Maya began with a question: How might a later start affect students' sleep and attendance? She chose three credible sources rather than relying on social media posts. First, the American Academy of Pediatrics, a professional medical organization, recommends that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later to support adolescent sleep. Its policy statement draws on research about teen biology and health. Maya treated this source as strong evidence about sleep needs, although it did not predict what would happen in her own school district.
- ② Next, Maya read a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report on school start times. The report used national school data and explained that most public middle and high schools began before 8:30 a.m. during the 2011-12 school year. Because the CDC is a federal public health agency and the report explains its data, Maya considered it reliable for describing national patterns. However, national averages could not show whether a schedule change would work locally. This source strengthened her understanding of the problem, but it did not measure attendance changes after later starts.
- ③ Finally, Maya used a peer-reviewed 2018 study of two public high schools in the Seattle area, published in Science Advances. Researchers measured student sleep before and after the schools delayed their starts by 55 minutes. Students slept 34 minutes longer on school nights, and median grades rose 4.5 percent. Peer review and a clear method made the study useful, yet its two schools differed from Maya's community. Combining all three sources, Maya concluded that later starts are well supported for sleep and may help learning. She would need local attendance data before claiming that attendance would improve.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What question is Maya researching, and why does that question require evidence about more than sleep?

2 Compare the American Academy of Pediatrics source with the CDC source. What does each source contribute to Maya's research?

3 Which source gives evidence from a change in actual school start times? State one result from that source and one limit Maya recognizes.

4 What conclusion can Maya responsibly make after synthesizing all three sources, and what claim should she delay?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine your school is deciding whether to keep the library open for one extra hour after school for study time. Use these sources: library sign-in logs show that 46 students per day used the library during the last 30 minutes of the current schedule, the district transportation office says late buses have 60 open seats, and a peer-reviewed study of comparable high schools found that regular supervised study time was linked to higher course completion. Write exactly three sentences that answer the question, use all three sources, and explain one limit on your conclusion.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the name of each of Maya's three sources. Underline one detail from each source that helps answer her question, then number the three underlined details 1, 2, and 3 to show the evidence she combines in her final conclusion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What question is Maya researching, and why does that question require evidence about more than sleep?	She is researching how a later start might affect students' sleep and attendance. Evidence about sleep alone cannot show whether attendance would change.
2	Compare the American Academy of Pediatrics source with the CDC source. What does each source contribute to Maya's research?	The American Academy of Pediatrics provides evidence that later starts support adolescent sleep. The CDC provides national data showing that most public middle and high schools started before 8:30 a.m. in 2011-12.
3	Which source gives evidence from a change in actual school start times? State one result from that source and one limit Maya recognizes.	The peer-reviewed Science Advances study provides this evidence. Students slept 34 minutes longer and median grades rose 4.5 percent, but the study involved only two schools in the Seattle area, not Maya's community.
4	What conclusion can Maya responsibly make after synthesizing all three sources, and what claim should she delay?	She can conclude that later starts are well supported for sleep and may help learning. She should delay claiming that attendance would improve until she has local attendance data.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Central High should test an extra library hour because current sign-in logs show that 46 students already use the library near closing, and late buses have 60 open seats. A peer-reviewed study of comparable high schools also links regular supervised study time with higher course completion. However, the logs do not show how many students would stay for a full extra hour, so the school should review participation after a trial.

Accept accurate paraphrases that distinguish what each source can show from what it cannot show. For the open task, accept a supported position that uses all three sources and identifies a reasonable limitation.