Bell Time Evidence

Read sources for evidence, bias, and fit.

9.T.RA.2.b "Analyze information from a variety of sources by identifying misconceptions, conflicting information or perspectives, and/or author bias and verifying the validity, relevancy, and accuracy of the information being considered. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline claims that need verification, circle information about a source or author's perspective, and number places where two sources agree or conflict. These marks will help you judge whether each source is useful and trustworthy.

Should Riverton Start Later?

1. Riverton High is considering moving its first bell from 7:25 to 8:30. In a board memo, Superintendent Elena Park cites the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, which recommends that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later. The memo also states that teenagers generally need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night. These claims match guidance from sleep experts, but Park wants the board to examine the original guidance, not rely only on her summary. Her goal is to give students more time to sleep without making a decision based on one source.

2. A parent group called Families for Flexible Mornings posted a petition supporting the change. It says a later bell will raise every student's grades and will not increase transportation costs. The petition links to no studies or district budget. Its lead organizer owns a before-school tutoring company, a connection listed in a local business directory but not on the petition. The organizer may sincerely support the proposal, yet the missing evidence and undisclosed financial interest give readers reasons to question the broad promises. The group does include comments from students who say they feel tired in first period.

3. Transportation director Malik Ortiz offers a different perspective. He tells the board that changing the schedule could add bus costs because routes now serve elementary, middle, and high schools at different times. He does not give a price, explaining that staff must first map routes and driver availability. A university study from another state found that later start times were associated with longer sleep for many students, but it did not prove that every student's grades increased. To judge whether the study applies to Riverton, board members should check its date, methods, and community conditions, then compare it with local route data and sleep guidance.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two claims in the parent group's petition need the most verification? Explain what evidence is missing.

2. What detail suggests that the petition's lead organizer may have a possible bias? Why does that detail matter?

3. Identify one conflict between the petition and another source in the passage. State the claim on each side.

4. What should board members check before using the university study to make a decision for Riverton? Explain why these checks matter.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A social media post claims that a later start time will let all athletes sleep more without changing practices. In 4 or 5 sentences, explain how you would evaluate the post before using it as evidence. Identify a possible bias or misconception, name one source you would use to verify it, and name two local details you would compare.

ANSWER KEY

Bell Time Evidence

GRADE 9 · 9.T.RA.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline claims that need verification, circle information about a source or author's perspective, and number places where two sources agree or conflict. These marks will help you judge whether each source is useful and trustworthy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two claims in the parent group's petition need the most verification? Explain what evidence is missing.	**The claims that a later bell will raise every student's grades and will not increase transportation costs need verification. The petition provides no studies and no district budget information.**
2	What detail suggests that the petition's lead organizer may have a possible bias? Why does that detail matter?	**The organizer owns a before-school tutoring company. This financial interest could affect the organizer's perspective, and it was not disclosed on the petition.**
3	Identify one conflict between the petition and another source in the passage. State the claim on each side.	**The petition says transportation costs will not increase, while Ortiz says changing the schedule could add bus costs. The petition says every student's grades will rise, while the university study did not prove that every student's grades increased.**
4	What should board members check before using the university study to make a decision for Riverton? Explain why these checks matter.	**They should check the study's date, methods, and community conditions, then compare it with local route data and sleep guidance. These checks help determine whether the study is accurate, current, and relevant to Riverton.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The post may overgeneralize because athletes have different practice times, and its author may want the schedule changed. I would check the claim against a district athletics schedule and find out who wrote the post and what evidence they used. I would compare the post with local bus-route plans and the times of after-school practices. I would also use sleep guidance from a medical organization to see whether its statements about sleep are accurate.

Accept equivalent descriptions of unsupported claims, possible financial bias, and conflicting transportation or grade claims. For the open response, accept different reliable verification sources and relevant local details if the student explains how they would test the claim.