

Claim Side Sort

Tell support from opposition in an argument.

L6-8WHST1.a "Introduce claim(s) about a topic or issue, acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically"

NAME _____

DATE _____

SUPPORTS THE CLAIM

A supporting statement gives a reason or evidence that backs the main claim. It helps show why the claim makes sense.

Claim: The town should build a community garden. Evidence: A survey found that 72 residents want a place to grow vegetables.

OPPOSES THE CLAIM

An opposing statement gives a different view or a reason not to accept the main claim. It shows an alternate position.

Alternate claim: The town should use the empty lot for a playground instead.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

The main claim is, "Middle school should begin at 8:30 a.m.," so circle SUPPORTS or OPPOSES for each statement, then choose two items and explain how you sorted them.

- | | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Students who sleep more are often more alert in first period. | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES |
| 2. A nearby middle school reported fewer tardies after moving its start time later. | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES |
| 3. School buses would need new routes, which could cost money. | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES |
| 4. Later starts would make it easier for teens to get the sleep they need. | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES |
| 5. Families may have trouble arranging child care before school. | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES |
| 6. Later dismissal could interfere with sports practices and games. | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES |
| 7. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools aim for start times of 8:30 a.m. or later. | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES |
| 8. After-school jobs could end too late if school dismissed later. | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES |

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new statement that SUPPORTS the main claim and one new statement that OPPOSES it.

SUPPORTS

OPPOSES

CHALLENGE

Write a three-sentence mini-argument that states the main claim, gives one supporting reason or piece of evidence, and acknowledges one opposing reason.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Students who sleep more are often more alert in first period.	SUPPORTS	More sleep is a reason that supports a later start time.
2	A nearby middle school reported fewer tardies after moving its start time later.	SUPPORTS	This reported result is evidence in favor of a later start.
3	School buses would need new routes, which could cost money.	OPPOSES	Extra cost is a reason against changing to a later start.
4	Later starts would make it easier for teens to get the sleep they need.	SUPPORTS	More time for sleep supports beginning school later.
5	Families may have trouble arranging child care before school.	OPPOSES	This gives a possible problem with a later start.
6	Later dismissal could interfere with sports practices and games.	OPPOSES	This gives a reason to keep the current earlier schedule.
7	The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools aim for start times of 8:30 a.m. or later.	SUPPORTS	This expert recommendation supports the main claim.
8	After-school jobs could end too late if school dismissed later.	OPPOSES	This gives a reason not to move the start time later.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SUPPORTS:** A later start could help students arrive on time because they would have more time to get ready.
- **OPPOSES:** Keeping an earlier start lets teams finish practices before it gets dark.

Challenge: Middle school should begin at 8:30 a.m. A later start can give students more time to sleep, which can help them focus in class. Some families may need earlier child care, but the district could offer a supervised morning program.

Items 1, 2, 4, and 7 SUPPORT the claim. Items 3, 5, 6, and 8 OPPOSE it because they present concerns or reasons for keeping an earlier start.