

Position Switch

Sort claims and counterclaims about a later school start.

6W1.a "Introduce a precise claim, acknowledge and distinguish the claim from a counterclaim, and organize the reasons and evidence logically."

NAME _____

DATE _____

MAIN CLAIM

A main claim states the writer's exact position. On this page, it supports moving the school start time to 8:30 a.m., without giving a reason.

A bike lane belongs on Oak Street.

COUNTERCLAIM

A counterclaim states an opposing position. On this page, it argues against moving the school start time to 8:30 a.m., without giving a reason.

A bike lane does not belong on Oak Street.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle CLAIM or COUNTER for each statement, then choose two items and explain which words show whether each supports or opposes starting school at 8:30 a.m.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Our school should begin classes at 8:30 a.m. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ COUNTER |
| 2. The opening bell should move to 8:30 a.m. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ COUNTER |
| 3. Our school should continue beginning classes at 7:45 a.m. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ COUNTER |
| 4. First period should begin at 8:30 a.m. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ COUNTER |
| 5. Starting school at 8:30 a.m. is not a change we should make. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ COUNTER |
| 6. The current start time should be replaced by an 8:30 a.m. start. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ COUNTER |
| 7. The school day should be moved to 8:30 a.m. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ COUNTER |
| 8. School should not shift its start time later. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ COUNTER |

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 CLAIM supporting an 8:30 a.m. start time and one new COUNTER statement opposing it. Do not add reasons.

CLAIM _____

COUNTER _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a different school issue. Write one precise claim, then write a counterclaim that directly disagrees with it. Do not give reasons.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Our school should begin classes at 8:30 a.m.	CLAIM	States the position that school should start at 8:30 a.m.
2	The opening bell should move to 8:30 a.m.	CLAIM	States support for the proposed later start time.
3	Our school should continue beginning classes at 7:45 a.m.	COUNTER	States an opposing position by keeping the current earlier start time.
4	First period should begin at 8:30 a.m.	CLAIM	States support for beginning school at 8:30 a.m.
5	Starting school at 8:30 a.m. is not a change we should make.	COUNTER	Directly opposes changing the start time to 8:30 a.m.
6	The current start time should be replaced by an 8:30 a.m. start.	CLAIM	States support for replacing the current time with 8:30 a.m.
7	The school day should be moved to 8:30 a.m.	CLAIM	States support for the proposed later start time.
8	School should not shift its start time later.	COUNTER	Directly opposes a later school start time.

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)

- **CLAIM:** The school should open at 8:30 a.m.
- **COUNTER:** The school should keep its earlier opening time.

Challenge: The school should allow students to use the courtyard during lunch. The school should not allow students to use the courtyard during lunch.

Items 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7 are CLAIM. Items 3, 5, and 8 are COUNTER. For Part 2, students should identify language such as "should begin at 8:30" or "should not shift" and connect it to the proposed start time.