

Why It Matters

Read how a conclusion shows the importance of an argument.

6W1.e "Provide a concluding statement or section that explains the significance of the argument presented."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the concluding paragraph. Circle the words and phrases that explain why the writer's argument matters.

A Later Bell

- ① Middle schools should begin at 8:30 a.m. or later. Many students must wake before sunrise to catch buses, yet many students need enough sleep to learn well. When students are tired, it is harder to focus, remember directions, and manage frustration. A later start would not remove homework or make every morning easy. However, it would give more students a realistic chance to arrive rested and ready to learn. Schools should study bus routes and activities, then adjust schedules carefully.
- ② Research supports this change. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine says that teenagers ages 13 to 18 should sleep eight to ten hours each night. In a 2014 policy statement, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that middle and high schools aim for start times of 8:30 a.m. or later. A later schedule can help, but it must work for families, buses, and after-school programs. District leaders can ask students and caregivers about concerns before making a plan.
- ③ Starting later is more than a schedule change. It is a choice about whether schools make learning conditions match what students need. If students have a better chance to sleep enough, they may be more alert in class and better able to participate safely and respectfully. For that reason, district leaders should explore later start times with their communities. A thoughtful schedule could help students use the school day for its most important purpose: learning.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which paragraph is the conclusion? Write a phrase from it that shows the writer is wrapping up the argument.

2 According to the conclusion, what larger issue does the start-time decision show?

3 Name two ways students may benefit if they have a better chance to sleep enough.

4 What action does the writer ask district leaders to take? How does that action connect to the conclusion's main idea?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine you argued that your school should install more water refill stations because they make drinking water easier to get and reduce single-use plastic bottles. Write a three-sentence concluding section that restates the claim, explains why it matters, and ends with an action.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the concluding paragraph. Circle the words and phrases that explain why the writer's argument matters. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which paragraph is the conclusion? Write a phrase from it that shows the writer is wrapping up the argument.	Paragraph 3. Accept: "Starting later is more than a schedule change" or "For that reason."
2	According to the conclusion, what larger issue does the start-time decision show?	It shows whether schools make learning conditions match what students need.
3	Name two ways students may benefit if they have a better chance to sleep enough.	They may be more alert in class and better able to participate safely and respectfully.
4	What action does the writer ask district leaders to take? How does that action connect to the conclusion's main idea?	Leaders should explore later start times with their communities. This supports the idea that a thoughtful schedule can help students learn.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should install more water refill stations. Easy access to water can help students stay hydrated, and fewer disposable bottles can reduce trash. School leaders should add stations in busy areas so this change benefits the whole school.

Accept conclusions that restate the refill-station claim, explain a meaningful benefit, and end with a reasonable action. Wording may vary if all three parts are clear and the response has exactly three sentences.