

The Last Word

Study how a conclusion shows why an argument matters.

7W1.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 sentence that gives the writer's final recommendation, then circle two details in the last paragraph that explain why that recommendation matters.

A Better Time to Learn

- ① Middle schools should begin no earlier than 8:30 a.m. Many seventh graders ride buses before sunrise, then try to learn while still tired. The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that middle and high schools start at 8:30 or later because adolescents need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night. A later start would not make students lazy. It would give their developing brains a better chance to get the rest that healthy learning requires.
- ② Some families worry that a later bell would complicate bus routes and after-school sports. Those concerns deserve planning, but they are not reasons to ignore sleep. Districts can adjust bus schedules, and teams can practice at slightly different times. In places that moved start times later, students have reported getting more sleep, according to research summarized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The main question is not whether a schedule can change. It is whether the current schedule supports students well enough.
- ③ Later start times matter because school schedules shape more than a morning routine. When students regularly miss sleep, their attention, mood, and readiness to learn can suffer. Choosing a healthier start time shows that a district values students' ability to participate fully in class, not simply arriving early. For that reason, school boards should treat a later start as an investment in learning and well-being. This decision can help students bring alert minds, steadier focus, and more energy to every subject.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which sentence gives the writer's final recommendation to school boards?

2 How does the last paragraph show that start times affect more than students' morning routines?

3 What larger value does the writer say a healthier start time shows?

4 How does the final sentence strengthen the writer's conclusion? Use one detail from that sentence.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence concluding section for an argument that your school should provide one quiet study period each week. Restate the claim in fresh words, explain why it matters beyond convenience, and end by describing a positive impact.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that gives the writer's final recommendation, then circle two details in the last paragraph that explain why that recommendation matters. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence gives the writer's final recommendation to school boards?	"For that reason, school boards should treat a later start as an investment in learning and well-being."
2	How does the last paragraph show that start times affect more than students' morning routines?	It explains that missed sleep can affect students' attention, mood, and readiness to learn.
3	What larger value does the writer say a healthier start time shows?	It shows that a district values students' ability to participate fully in class.
4	How does the final sentence strengthen the writer's conclusion? Use one detail from that sentence.	It explains the positive results of a later start, such as alert minds, steadier focus, or more energy in every subject.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A weekly quiet study period would do more than give students another block of time. It could help students organize assignments and get help before small problems become missing work. By adding this time, the school would show that planning and support are part of student success.

Accept equivalent wording that identifies the conclusion's recommendation and explains its broader importance for learning and well-being. For the open response, look for a restated claim, a clear explanation of significance, and a final impact statement.