

Why It Matters

Read a model argument and examine how its conclusion shows significance.

8W1.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 conclusion in the final paragraph. Circle the words or phrases that explain why the proposal matters beyond the schedule itself.

A Later First Bell

- ① Our middle school should begin classes at 8:30 a.m. instead of 7:45. Many eighth graders arrive while they are still fighting sleep, especially when buses pick them up before sunrise in winter. A later start would not make school easier. It would give students a better chance to arrive alert, listen carefully, and participate from the first class. The schedule should match what students need to learn well, rather than treating tiredness as a normal part of the day.
- ② Research on adolescent sleep supports this change. The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later so teens can get enough sleep. Sleep helps attention, memory, and mood, all of which affect learning. A later bell could also reduce the number of students who doze during morning lessons. Although bus routes and after-school activities would need planning, those challenges are worth solving for a healthier school day.
- ③ Moving the start time would show that our school takes learning seriously. The proposal matters because students cannot use their abilities fully when exhaustion follows them into class. A schedule that protects sleep can support stronger attention, calmer classrooms, and more meaningful learning for everyone. School leaders should study transportation options and ask families for input, then make a decision that puts students' readiness to learn first. Its effects would reach beyond first period and shape the entire school day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What action does the conclusion say school leaders should take before making a decision?

2 Copy the sentence that directly explains why the proposal matters.

3 Name two benefits that the conclusion says a schedule that protects sleep can support.

4 How does the final sentence expand the significance of the writer's argument?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one change you think your school should make. Write a 3- or 4-sentence conclusion that states your position in new words, explains why the change matters beyond one person, and names a next step.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the conclusion in the final paragraph. Circle the words or phrases that explain why the proposal matters beyond the schedule itself. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What action does the conclusion say school leaders should take before making a decision?	They should study transportation options and ask families for input.
2	Copy the sentence that directly explains why the proposal matters.	The proposal matters because students cannot use their abilities fully when exhaustion follows them into class.
3	Name two benefits that the conclusion says a schedule that protects sleep can support.	Any two: stronger attention, calmer classrooms, and more meaningful learning.
4	How does the final sentence expand the significance of the writer's argument?	It shows that a later start could affect the entire school day, not only first period.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Installing water bottle filling stations would be a practical improvement for our school. The change matters because students would have easier access to drinking water while the school used fewer single-use plastic bottles. School leaders should ask students where stations are needed most and include them in the next facilities plan.

Accept clear paraphrases of the conclusion's ideas. For the open response, look for a concluding position, an explanation of broader significance, and a realistic next step.