

Start Time Case

Analyze how a model argument uses claims, evidence, and reasoning.

9-10W1 "Write arguments to support claims that analyze substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the one sentence that states the writer's main claim, circle each entire sentence that reports research findings or expert guidance, and put a star beside the one sentence that tells exactly what Riverton High should do.

A Later Bell for Riverton High

- ① Riverton High should begin classes at 8:30 a.m. or later. This change would better match school schedules to the sleep needs of teenagers. The American Academy of Pediatrics has stated that middle and high schools should aim for start times of 8:30 a.m. or later to support adolescent health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that teens ages 13 to 18 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night. When a school day starts very early, many students must wake before they have had enough sleep.
- ② In a 2018 study of two Seattle high schools, researchers examined students before and after the district delayed the start time by nearly one hour. Students slept an average of 34 minutes longer on school nights after the change. The study also found that students' median grades increased by 4.5 percent. More sleep does not guarantee stronger grades for every student, but these results support the idea that a later schedule can remove one barrier to learning. A schedule that allows more rest may help students arrive ready to focus.
- ③ Some families may worry that a later start time would complicate transportation or after-school activities. Transportation is a real challenge because buses often serve several schools on staggered schedules. Families also may need time to adjust child-care and work routines. However, schedule changes can be planned with families and transportation staff, and the health and learning evidence is strong enough to justify addressing that challenge. Those concerns deserve careful planning, but they do not outweigh students' documented sleep needs. Riverton High should adopt an 8:30 a.m. start time next school year.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the writer's main claim?

2 Identify two research findings or pieces of expert guidance from the passage. Explain how each one supports the writer's claim.

3 Explain the reasoning that connects teenagers' sleep needs to a later school start time.

4 What concern does the writer acknowledge, and how does the writer respond to it?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Your school is considering a phone-free lunch area in the library. A student survey found that 62 percent of students want a quieter place to eat or study, and the principal said unused library tables are available. Write a 90 to 110 word argument that states a clear claim, uses both pieces of evidence, explains your reasoning, and acknowledges and responds to one possible concern.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the one sentence that states the writer's main claim, circle each entire sentence that reports research findings or expert guidance, and put a star beside the one sentence that tells exactly what Riverton High should do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's main claim?	Riverton High should begin classes at 8:30 a.m. or later.
2	Identify two research findings or pieces of expert guidance from the passage. Explain how each one supports the writer's claim.	Answers may identify the American Academy of Pediatrics guidance, the CDC sleep range, the Seattle students' 34 additional minutes of sleep, or the 4.5 percent increase in median grades. Each supports the idea that a later start better serves teen health or learning.
3	Explain the reasoning that connects teenagers' sleep needs to a later school start time.	Teens need 8 to 10 hours of sleep, and an early start can force them to wake before getting enough sleep. A later start can give students more time to sleep and arrive more ready to learn.
4	What concern does the writer acknowledge, and how does the writer respond to it?	The writer acknowledges transportation, after-school activities, child care, and work routines. The response is that schedules can be planned with families and transportation staff, and the health and learning evidence justifies addressing the challenge.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Westview High should create a phone-free lunch area in the library. A student survey found that 62 percent of students want a quieter place to eat or study, so the area would meet a demonstrated need rather than serve only a few students. The principal has said that unused library tables are available, which means the school can begin without buying new furniture. Some students may prefer using phones at lunch. They could still eat in other spaces, while students who want calm could choose the library. This policy gives students a useful choice while using existing school space.

Accept equivalent wording when students accurately identify the claim, relevant evidence, reasoning, and counterclaim response. For the open response, look for a defensible claim, use of both provided facts, a logical explanation, and a response to a reasonable concern.