

Precision in Practice

Read a model argument for exact language and subject-specific vocabulary.

9-10W1c "Use precise language and content-specific vocabulary to express the appropriate complexity of the topic."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four words or phrases that make the argument more exact, and circle three terms connected to sleep, health, or scheduling research. These choices show how a writer handles a complex issue clearly.

A Later First Bell

- ① Riverton School District should begin high school classes no earlier than 8:30 a.m., rather than its current 7:35 a.m. bell. During adolescence, the circadian rhythm shifts later, so many teenagers do not become sleepy until late evening even when they follow consistent routines. A 7:35 start therefore creates a structural conflict between school schedules and adolescent biology. This proposal is not a request for students to sleep through first period. It is a scheduling change designed to increase the likelihood that students arrive alert enough to learn, participate, and drive safely after school.
- ② The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools aim for start times of 8:30 a.m. or later. Its recommendation reflects research linking insufficient sleep with poorer attention, mood, and academic performance in adolescents. A 2018 study of Seattle students found that delaying the school start time by 55 minutes was associated with 34 additional minutes of sleep per night. That finding does not prove that every district will see identical results. It does, however, provide a measured reason to test whether Riverton's 55-minute schedule gap is harming student readiness.
- ③ Opponents may point to bus routes, athletics, and family work schedules. Those constraints are real, but they are logistical variables, not proof that the earlier bell is educationally sound. Riverton could examine a tiered transportation schedule, negotiate practice times, and survey families before selecting a new timetable. The district should also track attendance, first-period tardiness, and course performance during a one-year pilot. By evaluating these indicators instead of relying on anecdotes, leaders could judge whether a later start produces benefits large enough to justify the operational changes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 State the writer's claim. Include both the proposed start time and the current bell time.

2 Quote two content-specific terms or phrases from paragraph 1 that explain why teenagers may struggle with an early start. Tell what each term or phrase names.

3 Which sentence keeps the Seattle study from being overstated? Explain how its wording limits the writer's claim.

4 Why does paragraph 3 call bus routes, athletics, and work schedules “logistical variables” instead of simply calling them problems?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Your school serves 900 lunches each day. It buys disposable foam trays for 8 cents each. A reusable tray costs \$3.20, can be washed at the existing dish station, and is expected to last 400 uses. Write an 80-110 word argument about whether the school should switch to reusable trays. Use at least three content-specific terms and at least two precise numbers, and acknowledge one cost or concern the school should investigate.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline four words or phrases that make the argument more exact, and circle three terms connected to sleep, health, or scheduling research. These choices show how a writer handles a complex issue clearly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	State the writer's claim. Include both the proposed start time and the current bell time.	Riverton should start high school no earlier than 8:30 a.m. instead of its current 7:35 a.m. bell.
2	Quote two content-specific terms or phrases from paragraph 1 that explain why teenagers may struggle with an early start. Tell what each term or phrase names.	Possible answers: "circadian rhythm," the body's daily sleep-wake timing cycle; "adolescent biology," physical developmental patterns in teenagers; "structural conflict," a built-in mismatch between the schedule and students' sleep needs.
3	Which sentence keeps the Seattle study from being overstated? Explain how its wording limits the writer's claim.	"That finding does not prove that every district will see identical results." It limits the evidence by saying Seattle's result may not occur in every district.
4	Why does paragraph 3 call bus routes, athletics, and work schedules "logistical variables" instead of simply calling them problems?	The label shows that these are practical conditions to examine and adjust, not proof that an earlier start time is educationally beneficial.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The school should replace disposable foam trays with reusable trays. At 900 lunches per day, foam trays cost \$72 each school day before trash-hauling expenses. A \$3.20 reusable tray costs about \$0.008 per use when it lasts 400 uses, compared with \$0.08 for each foam tray. The existing dish station reduces the need for new sanitation equipment. Before purchasing trays, however, the cafeteria should calculate detergent, water, labor, and replacement costs. That cost analysis would show whether the lower per-use purchase price outweighs washing expenses while reducing the cafeteria's solid-waste stream.

Accept equivalent quotations and explanations that accurately connect precise wording to the writer's reasoning. For the open response, accept a supported position that uses the required numerical details, content-specific vocabulary, and a realistic limitation or concern.