

Why the Last Paragraph

Read a model argument and examine how its conclusion shows why the claim matters.

9-10W1e "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 states the writer's final position. Circle two phrases that explain why that position matters beyond daily scheduling.

A Better First Bell

- ① Riverton High should begin classes at 8:30 a.m. rather than 7:40. Teenagers' internal clocks shift later during adolescence, so many students are still biologically sleepy during the first period. A later start would not erase the need for responsibility, but it would give students a fairer chance to arrive alert. In a school day built around learning, the opening hour matters. When students begin class struggling to stay awake, they are less prepared to listen, ask questions, and use the time that teachers have planned.
- ② Research and professional guidance support this change. In a 2014 policy statement, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later to help students obtain enough sleep. More sleep can improve attention and reduce daytime sleepiness, both of which affect classroom work. Critics may point to bus schedules, sports, and family routines. Those concerns deserve planning, yet they are scheduling problems, not reasons to ignore students' health. Districts can adjust bus routes, practice times, and activity schedules after consulting families and staff.
- ③ For these reasons, Riverton High should make an 8:30 start its next scheduling priority. This decision is significant because it treats sleep as a learning condition, not a private issue students must solve alone. A later bell would signal that the school's routines should support the concentration, health, and participation it expects from students. It would also require the community to weigh convenience against a school's central purpose. Choosing a schedule that gives adolescents a realistic opportunity to rest means choosing conditions in which more students can engage fully in their education.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What final action does the writer say Riverton High should take?

2 Identify one reason from the argument that supports a later start time. Explain how it supports the claim.

3 How does the writer respond to concerns about buses, sports, and family routines?

4 According to the conclusion, what larger choice would the community have to weigh if it changed the start time?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that you have argued that the school library should stay open for one hour after the final bell because some students need a quiet place, internet access, or academic help. Write a three-sentence conclusion that restates the claim and explains why the decision would matter to the school community.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the writer's final position. Circle two phrases that explain why that position matters beyond daily scheduling. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What final action does the writer say Riverton High should take?	Riverton High should make an 8:30 a.m. start time its next scheduling priority.
2	Identify one reason from the argument that supports a later start time. Explain how it supports the claim.	Students are often biologically sleepy during first period, and more sleep can improve attention and reduce daytime sleepiness. This supports a later start because alert students are better prepared to learn.
3	How does the writer respond to concerns about buses, sports, and family routines?	The writer says these concerns deserve planning, but they are scheduling problems rather than reasons to ignore students' health. Districts can adjust routes and schedules after consulting families and staff.
4	According to the conclusion, what larger choice would the community have to weigh if it changed the start time?	The community would have to weigh convenience against the school's central purpose of supporting student learning.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Therefore, the school should keep the library open for one hour after the final bell. This choice matters because students who lack quiet space, internet access, or academic help at home would have a dependable place to work. By protecting that access, the school shows that learning can continue beyond the last class.

Accept equivalent statements of the claim, relevant support, and the response to the counterargument. For Part 3, accept a three-sentence conclusion that restates the library claim and explains a broader significance for students or the school community.