The First Bell

Trace how a writer builds an argument

7.3.W.3 "Students will compose argumentative essays that: • introduce precise claims • organize claims and evidence in a logical sequence • provide relevant evidence to develop arguments..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's precise claim, circle both named sources, and number the reasons and the response to an objection in the order they appear.

A Later Start for Middle School

(1) Middle schools should begin classes no earlier than 8:30 a.m. because a later start gives students a better chance to get the sleep they need. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says teenagers ages 13 to 18 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each day. Yet an early bell can force students to wake before they have slept long enough, especially when they must catch a bus. Moving the bell later would not solve every sleep problem, but it would remove one school-made obstacle.

(2) A later start also follows guidance meant for schools, not just individual families. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. This recommendation supports a clear decision: a school that begins at 7:30 a.m. should move its first bell back by one hour. That change would give students an opportunity to wake later without asking every family to change where it lives or how it travels. School schedules cannot guarantee sleep, but they can make enough sleep more possible.

(3) Some families may worry that a later bell will push after-school activities too far into the evening. That concern deserves attention, especially for students who ride buses or care for younger siblings. However, schools can review bus routes and activity schedules before changing the bell, rather than treating those challenges as reasons to keep an early start. The sleep recommendation from the CDC and the school-start guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics point in the same direction. Schools should plan carefully and set the first bell at 8:30 a.m. or later.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What precise change does the writer want middle schools to make?

2. How does each named source support the writer's claim?

3. How does the final paragraph respond to a concern about a later start?

4. Find a phrase in the final paragraph that gives the response to the concern a formal, respectful tone. Explain your choice.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one formal paragraph of four to five sentences arguing whether your school should replace any remaining incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs. Include a precise claim, the U.S. Department of Energy's finding that LEDs use at least 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs, a reason connecting that evidence to your claim, and a response to a possible objection.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's precise claim, circle both named sources, and number the reasons and the response to an objection in the order they appear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What precise change does the writer want middle schools to make?	**The writer wants middle schools to begin classes no earlier than 8:30 a.m.**
2	How does each named source support the writer's claim?	**The CDC states how much sleep teenagers need. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools start no earlier than 8:30 a.m.**
3	How does the final paragraph respond to a concern about a later start?	**It acknowledges that after-school activities could end later, then proposes reviewing bus routes and activity schedules before changing the bell.**
4	Find a phrase in the final paragraph that gives the response to the concern a formal, respectful tone. Explain your choice.	**"That concern deserves attention" is respectful because it takes families' worries seriously rather than dismissing them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Schools should replace any remaining incandescent classroom bulbs with LED bulbs to reduce electricity use. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, LEDs use at least 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs. Using less energy for lighting could reduce the school's electricity costs. Some people may object to the cost of buying new bulbs. However, the school could replace old bulbs as they burn out instead of changing every bulb at once.

For question 4, accept another quoted phrase if the student explains how its word choice maintains a formal, respectful style. For the paragraph, accept either position if the claim is precise and the supplied evidence is used accurately.