A Later Bell

Read a model argument about school start times

8.P.4.1.B "Compose argumentative written products by introducing a claim, recognizing an opposing viewpoint, and organizing evidence and reasoning from credible sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's claim and circle the names of two sources. Number the opposing concern 1 and the writer's response to it 2.

Should School Start Later?

1. Imagine a middle school where the first bell rings at 7:35 a.m. The district should move that bell to 8:35 a.m. for all students. This change would give many students a better chance to sleep enough before class. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says teenagers ages 13 to 17 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep per night. A later bell cannot make anyone go to bed, but it can reduce the pressure to wake up so early on school days.

2. Some families might oppose a later bell because they depend on the current bus schedule or need older children home in the afternoon. Those are serious concerns, not reasons to ignore sleep. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later to support adolescent health. That recommendation adds a second credible source to the sleep guideline. Still, a health recommendation does not explain how a district should change bus routes or after-school activities. Leaders would need to study those local details.

3. To act on the evidence without dismissing families, the district could test an 8:35 start for one semester. Before changing routes, it could ask families about transportation needs and compare several bus plans. During the trial, students could report their sleep hours, while the district tracks bus costs and attendance. These local results would not replace the health guidance, but they would show whether the plan works here. If the later bell improves students' chance to sleep without causing major transportation problems, the district should keep it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What change does the writer claim the district should make, and what is the main reason for it?

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

3. What concern might families raise, and how does the writer respond to it?

4. Why does the writer propose a one-semester test instead of relying only on the health recommendations?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence argument for adding a short sleep lesson to eighth-grade health class. State your claim, use one fact from a named source in the passage, acknowledge an opposing view, and explain why your claim still makes sense.

ANSWER KEY # A Later Bell

GRADE 8 · 8.P.4.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's claim and circle the names of two sources. Number the opposing concern 1 and the writer's response to it 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What change does the writer claim the district should make, and what is the main reason for it?	**Move the first bell from 7:35 to 8:35 a.m. to give students a better chance to get enough sleep.**
2	How does the evidence from each named source support the writer's claim?	**The CDC gives the amount of sleep teenagers need. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a start time of 8:30 a.m. or later for middle and high schools.**
3	What concern might families raise, and how does the writer respond to it?	**Families may depend on current bus schedules or need older children home in the afternoon. The writer takes that concern seriously and proposes studying transportation needs and bus plans.**
4	Why does the writer propose a one-semester test instead of relying only on the health recommendations?	**The recommendations support a later start but do not show how it would affect this district's transportation. A test could provide local information about sleep, bus costs, and attendance.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a short sleep lesson to eighth-grade health class. The CDC says teenagers ages 13 to 17 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night. A lesson could help students compare that guideline with their own routines. Some people may say health class already covers too many topics. A brief lesson is worth the time because students can use the guideline to make informed choices about bedtime.

Accept other accurate descriptions of the claim, evidence, and opposing concern. For Part 3, look for a distinct claim about a sleep lesson, an accurate fact attributed to a named source, an opposing view, and reasoning that responds to it.