Source or Say-So?

Sort statements about later school start times.

E.P.4.1.B "Compose argumentative written products, including a precise claim as distinguished from opposing claims, organizing logical reasoning, and providing credible evidence to develop an argument."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SOURCED EVIDENCE

A sourced statement gives a checkable fact and names a credible source. You can use it in an argument, but you still need to explain how it supports your claim.

The National Archives' transcript of the 26th Amendment states that citizens age 18 or older cannot be denied the vote because of age.

UNSUPPORTED ASSERTION

An unsupported assertion makes a claim without checkable evidence. Strong wording does not make a statement reliable.

Every town would benefit from banning cars downtown.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle SOURCED or UNSOURCED for each statement, then for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain in two sentences how you decided.

1.	The CDC says teens ages 13 to 18 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep per 24 hours.	SOURCED UNSOURCED
2.	The American Academy of Pediatrics' 2014 policy statement recommends that middle and high schools start no earlier than 8:30 a.m.	SOURCED UNSOURCED
3.	Nearly all teenagers would earn higher grades if first period began later.	SOURCED UNSOURCED
4.	The CDC's 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that most U.S. high school students slept less than 8 hours on school nights.	SOURCED UNSOURCED
5.	A later first bell would force every parent to miss work.	SOURCED UNSOURCED
6.	Anyone who opposes later starts does not care about teens.	SOURCED UNSOURCED
7.	The American Academy of Pediatrics' 2014 policy statement names bus schedules as a barrier to changing start times.	SOURCED UNSOURCED
8.	The American Academy of Pediatrics' 2014 policy statement notes that later start times may affect after-school sports.	SOURCED UNSOURCED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

For Part 3, write one new SOURCED fact and one new UNSOURCED assertion about a public issue you choose; name the source for your fact.

SOURCED _____

UNSOURCED _____

CHALLENGE

Write one paragraph of 100 to 130 words arguing whether high schools should start no earlier than 8:30 a.m.; state a precise claim, explain how at least two SOURCED items support your reasoning, present an opposing claim about scheduling, and answer it using a SOURCED item.

ANSWER KEY

Source or Say-So?

HIGH SCHOOL · E.P.4.1.B

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The CDC says teens ages 13 to 18 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep per 24 hours.	**SOURCED**	The CDC is named, and its sleep recommendation is checkable.
2	The American Academy of Pediatrics' 2014 policy statement recommends that middle and high schools start no earlier than 8:30 a.m.	**SOURCED**	The statement identifies a specific, checkable recommendation and its source.
3	Nearly all teenagers would earn higher grades if first period began later.	**UNSOURCED**	The prediction gives no source or evidence for its broad claim.
4	The CDC's 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that most U.S. high school students slept less than 8 hours on school nights.	**SOURCED**	The named survey provides a checkable finding.
5	A later first bell would force every parent to miss work.	**UNSOURCED**	The absolute claim has no supporting evidence.
6	Anyone who opposes later starts does not care about teens.	**UNSOURCED**	This assigns motives without evidence.
7	The American Academy of Pediatrics' 2014 policy statement names bus schedules as a barrier to changing start times.	**SOURCED**	The named policy statement documents a specific scheduling concern.
8	The American Academy of Pediatrics' 2014 policy statement notes that later start times may affect after-school sports.	**SOURCED**	The named policy statement documents a specific concern about activities.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SOURCED**: The National Park Service states that Yellowstone was established as a national park in 1872.
- **UNSOURCED**: Every voter prefers online ballots.

Challenge: High schools should begin no earlier than 8:30 a.m. because students need enough time to sleep. The CDC says teens ages 13 to 18 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep per day. The CDC's 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey also found that most U.S. high school students slept less than 8 hours on school nights. Together, these findings show why protecting time for sleep matters. Opponents argue that a later bell would disrupt transportation and sports. The American Academy of Pediatrics' 2014 policy statement identifies bus schedules and after-school activities as obstacles, so districts must plan for them. Those obstacles are reasons to revise schedules, not reasons to ignore students' sleep needs.

Part 2 model: Item 4 names a CDC survey and gives a finding that can be checked. Item 5 makes a claim about every parent without naming evidence.