Take a Side

Your position: Our school should start at 8:45 a.m. instead of 7:45 a.m.

8.CL.8.c "Write an argument to defend a position by introducing and supporting a claim, distinguishing the claim from opposing claims, presenting counterclaims and reasons, and citing accurate, relevant textual evidence from credible sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

YOUR CLAIM

A claim states the position you defend on an issue. You can support it with accurate evidence from a trustworthy source.

Our town should build a public skate park.

COUNTERCLAIM

A counterclaim states an opposing position on the same issue. It is a position, not just a reason someone gives.

Our town should not build a public skate park.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLAIM or OPPOSING for each statement, then choose one item from each category and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	The first bell should ring at 8:45 a.m.	CLAIM OPPOSING
2.	School should begin one hour later than 7:45 a.m.	CLAIM OPPOSING
3.	Keep the school start time at 7:45 a.m.	CLAIM OPPOSING
4.	Move the start of classes to 8:45 a.m.	CLAIM OPPOSING
5.	Do not move the first bell to 8:45 a.m.	CLAIM OPPOSING
6.	Leave the 7:45 a.m. start time as it is.	CLAIM OPPOSING
7.	Students should begin classes at 8:45 a.m.	CLAIM OPPOSING
8.	Replace the 7:45 a.m. start with an 8:45 a.m. start.	CLAIM OPPOSING

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how you knew where each belongs.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new claim and one new counterclaim about our school's start time.

CLAIM _____

OPPOSING _____

CHALLENGE

Use this fact from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Teens ages 13 to 18 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep per 24 hours. Write two sentences: state your claim about the start time, then cite the CDC fact and explain how it supports your claim.

ANSWER KEY # Take a Side

GRADE 8 · 8.CL.8.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The first bell should ring at 8:45 a.m.	**CLAIM**	It states the proposed 8:45 a.m. start.
2	School should begin one hour later than 7:45 a.m.	**CLAIM**	One hour after 7:45 a.m. is 8:45 a.m., the writer's position.
3	Keep the school start time at 7:45 a.m.	**OPPOSING**	It states a position against moving the start time.
4	Move the start of classes to 8:45 a.m.	**CLAIM**	It states the writer's proposed start time.
5	Do not move the first bell to 8:45 a.m.	**OPPOSING**	It rejects the writer's proposed start time.
6	Leave the 7:45 a.m. start time as it is.	**OPPOSING**	It favors keeping the current start time.
7	Students should begin classes at 8:45 a.m.	**CLAIM**	It states the writer's position.
8	Replace the 7:45 a.m. start with an 8:45 a.m. start.	**CLAIM**	It states the proposed change.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain how you knew where each belongs.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CLAIM**: Our school ought to switch to an 8:45 a.m. first bell.
- **OPPOSING**: Our school ought to stick with its 7:45 a.m. first bell.

Challenge: Our school should start at 8:45 a.m. instead of 7:45 a.m. The CDC says teens ages 13 to 18 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep per day, and a later start could give students more time to reach that goal.

For Part 2, a student might explain that item 1 states the proposed 8:45 a.m. start, while item 3 states the opposing 7:45 a.m. start. Accept other explanations that identify the position each item takes.