

Evidence, Not Heat

Read a formal proposal that uses evidence, limits, and respectful responses to concerns.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1d "Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB This district proposal is fictional; its cited sources are real. Underline three formal, objective phrases. Circle source references and mark the paragraph that respectfully addresses a concern.

Public Comment on High School Start Times

- ① To the Riverview School Board: I recommend that the district move the high school start time from 7:25 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. or later. This change would better match research on adolescent sleep. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools begin at 8:30 a.m. or later so students can obtain sufficient sleep. Because transportation, athletics, and family schedules would be affected, the board should review costs and routes before adopting a new schedule. A phased plan, beginning with one school year of preparation, would allow the district to identify practical concerns.
- ② Available evidence supports examining this proposal. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that adolescents ages 13 to 18 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep per 24 hours. In its 2014 policy statement, the American Academy of Pediatrics linked later school start times with an opportunity for students to get the sleep they need. These sources do not prove that a schedule change alone will improve every student's attendance or grades. However, they provide a reasonable basis for considering a start time that supports adolescent health. The board can also collect local attendance, tardiness, and transportation data before making a final decision.

- ③ Some community members may worry that later dismissal would interfere with jobs, sports, or child care. That concern deserves consideration, rather than dismissal. The district could consult coaches, employers, bus staff, and families, then publish several schedule options with estimated costs. It could also explain how each option would affect elementary and middle school routes. After reviewing public comments and local data, the board should select the option that best balances student health with operational limits. A careful process would not guarantee agreement, but it would make the decision transparent and based on relevant evidence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- ① What specific schedule change does the writer recommend, and what practical factors does the writer say the board should review?

- ② Which organizations does the writer cite? What age group and recommended sleep range does the passage report?

- ③ Copy the sentence that prevents the writer from overstating what the evidence can prove.

- ④ How does the final paragraph address a concern without using dismissive language? State the concern and one action the writer proposes.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Fictional library records: on each of five afternoons, six students requested computers when all eight were occupied. Waiting times, reasons for use and purchase costs were not recorded. Write a 90-120-word formal recommendation to school leaders about investigating computer access. In three paragraphs, state a claim supported by these records, explain a limit, and address a cost concern with a practical next step.

Write and check three paragraphs

Use the supplied records without inventing costs or outcomes. Separate the recommendation, evidence limits and response to cost into three paragraphs. Use precise wording, attribute the records and describe the concern respectfully. Keep the full response within 90-120 words.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

This district proposal is fictional; its cited sources are real. Underline three formal, objective phrases. Circle source references and mark the paragraph that respectfully addresses a concern. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What specific schedule change does the writer recommend, and what practical factors does the writer say the board should review?	The writer recommends moving the high school start time from 7:25 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. or later. The board should review transportation, athletics, family schedules, costs, and routes.
2	Which organizations does the writer cite? What age group and recommended sleep range does the passage report?	The writer cites the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The passage reports 8 to 10 hours of sleep per 24 hours for adolescents ages 13 to 18.
3	Copy the sentence that prevents the writer from overstating what the evidence can prove.	These sources do not prove that a schedule change alone will improve every student's attendance or grades.
4	How does the final paragraph address a concern without using dismissive language? State the concern and one action the writer proposes.	The concern is that later dismissal could interfere with jobs, sports, or child care. The writer proposes consulting coaches, employers, bus staff, and families, or publishing schedule options with estimated costs.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Formal recommendation: I recommend that the school investigate access to library computers before approving a purchase. Library records show that six students requested computers when all eight were occupied on each of five afternoons. This pattern warrants closer review.

However, the records do not establish waiting times or reasons for use. Staff could record these details during a longer observation period to identify the kind of access students need.

Purchase costs may concern school leaders. The school could compare equipment estimates with a scheduling trial before committing funds. This process would support a decision based on documented demand and available resources.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Require three actual paragraphs totaling 90-120 words, a formal and objective tone, attributed evidence, a clear claim, a fair cost concern and a practical response. Do not infer thirty distinct students: the same students could return. Full computers and requests show demand at recorded times, not average waits, purposes, whole-school need or an affordable solution. The sample recommends investigation before purchase. The district and library records are fictional. Reading source: CDC, Sleep and Health, <https://www.cdc.gov/physical-activity-education/staying-healthy/sleep.html> (reports the sleep range and AAP's 2014 school-start recommendation).