

The Bell Time Case

Analyze how a model argument builds and supports a position.

10.W.2 "Organization and Composition Plan and organize writing to address a specific audience and purpose using the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing)..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Riverton is fictional, and Maya's anecdote is imagined. The named research and recommendations are real. Underline the thesis, number the two main reasons 1 and 2, circle transitions, and box each source-based fact. These marks will help you see how the writer organizes and develops an argument.

A Later Start for Riverton High

- ① Riverton High should begin classes at 8:30 a.m. because later start times support teen health and learning. At 7:10 one morning, Maya rested her head on the bus window and whispered, "I studied, but I cannot keep my eyes open." This imagined scene illustrates the concern behind the proposal. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later so adolescents can get enough sleep. A later schedule would not solve every problem, but it would give students a stronger chance to arrive alert and ready to learn.
- ② First, sleep affects students' ability to learn. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that teens need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night, yet many do not get enough. When school begins before sunrise in winter, students may cut sleep short to catch buses or finish homework. Sleep is not extra free time. It helps the brain stay focused during lessons and discussions. Thus, a later bell could help students arrive with the attention needed to listen, solve problems, and contribute to class thoughtfully.

- ③ Second, a later schedule may improve participation. University of Minnesota researchers compared five high schools. In the two that moved their start times about an hour later, students reported smaller increases in sleepiness and lateness due to oversleeping than students in schools that kept early starts. These findings suggest that sleep policy can affect whether students show up and stay engaged. Some families may worry that a later dismissal would disrupt sports, jobs, or child-care plans. However, Riverton can plan bus routes and practice schedules before changing the bell time. Therefore, the school should gather family input and test an 8:30 start for one semester.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- ① Copy the thesis statement. What position does the writer take?

- ② What is the first reason for the later start time? Explain how the CDC evidence develops that reason.

- ③ How does the third paragraph address a possible concern, and what action does the writer propose?

- ④ How does Maya's brief story work with the source-based evidence to strengthen the argument?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Persuade your principal to make one campus improvement. In 100 to 125 words and three paragraphs, state a clear thesis, develop two reasons, use one named credible source as evidence, include a brief anecdote, and use at least two transitions. Plan, draft, revise and edit your argument in the spaces below. The 100-125-word limit applies to the three prose paragraphs, excluding the plan and change record. You may use a relevant named-source fact from this passage or a source your teacher provides. Distinguish an imagined anecdote from a real observation.

1. Plan

Plan your thesis, two reasons with support, and how to group them in three paragraphs.

2. Draft, revise and edit

Write the complete argument. Mark a revision that improves support or organization and an edit to conventions; leave your first wording readable.

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.

3. Changes made

Record one revision and one convention edit, giving the before-and-after wording and why each helps.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Riverton is fictional, and Maya's anecdote is imagined. The named research and recommendations are real. Underline the thesis, number the two main reasons 1 and 2, circle transitions, and box each source-based fact. These marks will help you see how the writer organizes and develops an argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the thesis statement. What position does the writer take?	"Riverton High should begin classes at 8:30 a.m. because later start times support teen health and learning." The writer supports a later start time.
2	What is the first reason for the later start time? Explain how the CDC evidence develops that reason.	The first reason is that sleep affects learning. The CDC reports that teens need 8 to 10 hours of sleep, supporting the idea that a later start could help students arrive focused and ready to learn.
3	How does the third paragraph address a possible concern, and what action does the writer propose?	It acknowledges that later dismissal could affect sports, jobs, and child-care plans. The writer proposes planning bus and practice schedules, gathering family input, and testing an 8:30 start for one semester.
4	How does Maya's brief story work with the source-based evidence to strengthen the argument?	Maya's fictional story illustrates how tiredness might feel. The AAP recommendation, CDC sleep guidance and Minnesota study provide broader support, while the anecdote itself is not research evidence.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Northview High should install covered bike racks because they would protect bicycles from rain and make active travel more practical. Imagine Luis pointing to his wet bicycle and saying, “I would ride more often if my bike had a dry place.” Covered racks would give riders a weather-protected place to park their bicycles.

In addition, biking to school can add movement to a student’s day. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that physical activity can improve cognition, including academic performance. More students may choose to ride when the school provides a reliable place to park.

Therefore, the principal should ask students where racks are needed and include covered racks in the next facilities plan.

Accept equivalent explanations that identify the thesis, the two reasons, credible source evidence, the anecdote, and the transitions. For the open response, accept varied campus topics if the writing has three paragraphs, a defensible thesis, two developed reasons, a named credible source, a narrative detail, and clear transitions. Require 100-125 words in three paragraphs, two reasons, a named credible source, a brief anecdote and two transitions. Northview and Luis are invented in the sample, whose three paragraphs show possible final prose. Assess the actual plan, marked revision and convention edit, and change record as well. For example, adding the CDC fact can strengthen a reason, and repairing a comma splice can correct conventions. Sources: CDC, Sleep and Health (cdc.gov/physical-activity-education/staying-healthy/sleep.html), and Health Benefits of Physical Activity for Children (cdc.gov/physical-activity-basics/health-benefits/children.html); University of Minnesota, Delaying high school start times reduces sleepiness and tardiness (sph.umn.edu, October 12, 2021). The study concerns self-reported sleepiness and oversleeping-related lateness, not a guaranteed graduation effect.