

Evidence Builds a Case

Analyze how different evidence types strengthen an argument.

6.8.E.ii “explaining how the author uses various types of evidence to support the argument; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author’s main claim. Circle each piece of evidence, then write R by a recommendation from an expert group, S by a statistic, or T by a study, and think about how it supports the claim.

A Later Bell Time

- ① Classes at Northview Middle School should begin at 8:30 a.m. or later. Many students arrive sleepy, and tired learners may struggle to focus during first period. The American Academy of Pediatrics has stated that middle and high schools should aim for start times of 8:30 a.m. or later so adolescents can get enough sleep. This recommendation is not simply about comfort. It is based on the way teenagers’ body clocks naturally shift later during puberty, making early sleep difficult for many students.
- ② National survey data add another reason to change the schedule. In 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 77 percent of U.S. high school students slept less than eight hours on an average school night. Although Northview serves younger students, this number shows that too little sleep is common among teens. A later bell cannot solve every sleep problem, but it would give students more time for rest before buses arrive. The statistic makes the argument stronger because it shows this is a widespread issue, not just one student’s complaint.
- ③ Research from Seattle offers a real-world example. In a 2018 study, researchers found that after two Seattle high schools moved their start time 55 minutes later, students slept 34 minutes more each night. Their median grades also rose by 4.5 percent. Northview is not Seattle, so school leaders should examine local bus schedules and family needs. Still, this study shows what can happen when a school changes its bell time. By combining an expert recommendation, national data, and a school study, the author builds a well-supported case for a later start.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the author’s main claim about Northview Middle School’s schedule?

2 What type of evidence is the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation, and how does it support the author’s claim?

3 How does the CDC statistic about 77 percent of high school students strengthen the argument?

4 How does the Seattle study support a later start time, and what limitation does the author point out?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences arguing for a school schedule change. In sentence 1, state your claim. In sentences 2 and 3, use two different types of evidence from the passage and explain how each supports your claim.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the author's main claim. Circle each piece of evidence, then write R by a recommendation from an expert group, S by a statistic, or T by a study, and think about how it supports the claim. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's main claim about Northview Middle School's schedule?	Northview Middle School should begin at 8:30 a.m. or later.
2	What type of evidence is the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation, and how does it support the author's claim?	It is an expert-group recommendation. It supports the claim by showing that medical experts recommend later start times so adolescents can get enough sleep.
3	How does the CDC statistic about 77 percent of high school students strengthen the argument?	It shows that too little sleep is a widespread problem among teens, not only a complaint from one student.
4	How does the Seattle study support a later start time, and what limitation does the author point out?	The study shows that students slept 34 more minutes and had higher median grades after a later start. The author notes that Northview is not Seattle and must consider its own bus schedules and family needs.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Northview should move its start time later. The CDC statistic that 77 percent of high school students slept less than eight hours shows that many teens need more time to rest. The Seattle school study, where students slept 34 more minutes after a later start, gives a real example of how the change could help.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the claim and evidence types when students explain the connection between evidence and the author's argument. For Part 3, responses must have exactly three sentences, a clear schedule claim, two different evidence types from the passage, and an explanation of each.