Bell Time Evidence

Annotate a claim, weigh its evidence, and form a reasoned response.

8.6 "Response skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student responds to an increasingly challenging variety of sources that are read, heard, or viewed..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the student council's main claim, circle two details that support or limit it, and number the steps the principal proposes before making a decision. These marks will help you judge whether the proposal is convincing.

Should School Start Later?

1. At 7:20 each morning, the halls of Ridgeview Middle are quiet except for yawns. Some students arrive after long bus rides, and others say they struggle to focus during first period. The student council has proposed moving the opening bell to 8:15. Its members claim that a later start would help students learn because teenagers' body clocks naturally shift later during puberty. They also argue that alert students could participate more fully in class and drive more safely on the way to school.

2. Research gives the proposal some support. The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later so adolescents can get enough sleep. In districts that changed to later schedules, researchers have reported outcomes such as longer sleep and better attendance. However, these results do not prove that every school will see the same changes. Families' schedules, after-school jobs, and bus routes can affect how much extra sleep a student actually gets.

3. Ridgeview's principal should not treat the council's plan as an automatic solution. A later bell might benefit many students, but it could also create problems for students who depend on early buses or care for younger siblings after school. Before deciding, the principal could survey families, ask transportation staff to estimate new costs, and compare attendance and tardiness data with similar schools. This additional evidence might strengthen the proposal, change its details, or show that another support, such as a quiet study period, is needed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Paraphrase the student council's main claim. Include the reason the council gives for supporting a later start time.

2. Identify one piece of research-based evidence in paragraph 2 that supports a later school start. Explain how it supports the proposal.

3. What limitation does the author give about the research in paragraph 2? Explain why this limitation matters when judging the council's claim.

4. How does paragraph 3 adjust the earlier proposal? Use two details from the paragraph in your response.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence email to the principal recommending whether Ridgeview should test a later opening bell. Use two details from the passage as evidence, address one concern, and use a respectful, formal tone.

ANSWER KEY

Bell Time Evidence

GRADE 8 · TEKS 8.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the student council's main claim, circle two details that support or limit it, and number the steps the principal proposes before making a decision. These marks will help you judge whether the proposal is convincing. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Paraphrase the student council's main claim. Include the reason the council gives for supporting a later start time.	**The council believes a later opening bell would help students learn because teenagers' body clocks shift later during puberty, making them more alert.**
2	Identify one piece of research-based evidence in paragraph 2 that supports a later school start. Explain how it supports the proposal.	**The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends starts at 8:30 a.m. or later so adolescents can get enough sleep. This supports the idea that later starts may help students be more rested.**
3	What limitation does the author give about the research in paragraph 2? Explain why this limitation matters when judging the council's claim.	**The results from other districts do not prove every school will have the same results because family schedules, jobs, and bus routes differ. This means Ridgeview cannot assume a later start will automatically help every student.**
4	How does paragraph 3 adjust the earlier proposal? Use two details from the paragraph in your response.	**Paragraph 3 says the principal should investigate before automatically adopting the plan. The principal should survey families, estimate transportation costs, and compare Ridgeview data with similar schools.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Principal, I recommend testing a later opening bell for one semester. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends starts at 8:30 or later, and districts with later schedules have reported more sleep and better attendance. Still, early buses and after-school care could make this change difficult for some families. Survey families and check transportation costs before choosing a schedule that works fairly for students.

Accept accurate paraphrases and evidence-based explanations, including either research finding from paragraph 2. For the email, accept either recommendation if it uses two relevant passage details, addresses a concern, and maintains a formal tone.