

The First Bell

Compare how two columns frame a school schedule debate.

10.RI.3.A "Evaluate how different authors write about the same topic and shape their presentations or viewpoints of key information using facts, opinions, and reasoning."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline facts, circle opinions, and number each reason that explains why a writer reaches a conclusion. Then compare how the two writers use the same health fact in different ways.

Should Riverside Start Later?

- ① Many high schools are reconsidering when the first bell rings. In 2014, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later because teens need 8.5 to 9.5 hours of sleep each night. At Riverside High, a student newspaper invited two columnists to respond to a proposed 8:45 start time. Both writers use the same health recommendation and acknowledge that changing schedules would affect buses, sports, and family routines. However, they select different details and draw different conclusions about what the school should do.
- ② In her column, Maya Ortiz supports the later start. She states that the pediatric recommendation is "a practical guide, not a luxury," and notes that an 8:45 bell would give many students more time to sleep. Ortiz argues that alert students can participate more fully in class and drive home more safely after activities. She recognizes that bus routes might need to change, but calls that problem "worth solving." To strengthen her case, she emphasizes teen health and treats transportation planning as a manageable obstacle. Her conclusion is that Riverside should approve the proposal.
- ③ Jordan Lee opposes the later start, although he does not challenge the sleep recommendation. He points out that Riverside shares buses with two elementary schools and says a new schedule could require additional drivers or longer routes. Lee also worries that later dismissal would push practices, games, and student jobs into the evening. In his view, the proposal solves one problem while creating several costly ones. Rather than approving it immediately, he recommends that the school study transportation expenses and survey families. Lee frames the same health information as important, but not sufficient by itself to justify a change.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What fact do both writers accept, and what different action does each writer recommend?

2 How does Ortiz use the health recommendation to support her viewpoint? Identify her opinion and the reasoning that supports it.

3 What information does Lee emphasize to oppose immediate approval, and what does he propose instead?

4 Both writers mention bus transportation. How does each writer's treatment of buses shape the conclusion of the column?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Use this shared fact: In a school survey, 62 percent of students said they support phone-free class periods. Write two mini-columns, 80 to 100 words total, with opposing views. In each paragraph, use the fact, state an opinion, and explain reasoning that shows how the writer frames the fact.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline facts, circle opinions, and number each reason that explains why a writer reaches a conclusion. Then compare how the two writers use the same health fact in different ways. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What fact do both writers accept, and what different action does each writer recommend?	Both accept the pediatric recommendation for later school starts. Ortiz recommends approving the 8:45 start, while Lee recommends studying costs and surveying families before approving it.
2	How does Ortiz use the health recommendation to support her viewpoint? Identify her opinion and the reasoning that supports it.	Ortiz says the recommendation is a practical guide and argues that more sleep would help students participate in class and drive more safely. She concludes that the later start should be approved.
3	What information does Lee emphasize to oppose immediate approval, and what does he propose instead?	Lee emphasizes shared buses, possible added drivers or longer routes, later activities, and costs. He proposes studying transportation expenses and surveying families.
4	Both writers mention bus transportation. How does each writer's treatment of buses shape the conclusion of the column?	Ortiz treats changed bus routes as a manageable problem worth solving, which supports approval. Lee treats bus changes as possible added costs and disruptions, which supports delaying a decision.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Elena Park supports phone-free class periods. She argues that the 62 percent approval rate shows students are ready to protect their attention during instruction. Because most surveyed students favor the rule, teachers should try it for one semester and compare assignment completion rates over time. Noah Grant opposes a required rule. He says that although 62 percent chose support, the result does not explain why the other 38 percent did not choose support. Because students may need phones for family messages or school tools, Noah recommends class-by-class choices instead.

Accept equivalent responses that accurately distinguish the shared sleep recommendation from the writers' different conclusions. For the open task, look for two opposing viewpoints, accurate use of the shared fact, and reasoning that explains each viewpoint.