Conclusions That Count

Trace how a conclusion completes an argument.

10.W.1.B.iv "Write arguments that: Provide conclusions that follow from and support the argument presented."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's claim and each reason or piece of evidence. Circle the final recommendation, then draw arrows from two earlier ideas that support it.

A Later First Bell

1. Riverton High should move its first bell from 7:25 to 8:30 a.m. Many teenagers do not get enough sleep because their natural sleep schedules shift later during adolescence. The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later to help students get sufficient sleep. In districts that have delayed start times, students have reported more sleep and less daytime tiredness. A later bell would not solve every cause of exhaustion, but it would remove one school-created barrier to rest.

2. Critics may worry that a later start would interfere with sports, jobs, and bus schedules. Those concerns deserve planning, not dismissal. The district could coordinate bus routes with elementary schools, schedule some practices before school, and survey students who work after class. Schools already adjust calendars and transportation for weather, testing, and events. A change in the first bell would require similar careful coordination. Because the benefits reach every student each morning, the district should compare those benefits with the manageable costs of revising routines.

3. Evidence points to a practical choice after considering both benefits and challenges. Moving the first bell later would give students a better chance to sleep enough, while the district can plan for transportation, activities, and after-school jobs. Riverton High should adopt an 8:30 start time for a one-year trial, then review attendance, grades, student sleep reports, and effects on schedules. This measured step supports student health, responds to reasonable concerns, and allows leaders to adjust the plan using early results from the trial rather than assumptions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What policy does the author argue Riverton High should adopt?

2. Give one piece of evidence the author uses to support a later start time.

3. What concern about a later start does the author address, and what response does the author offer?

4. How does the final recommendation follow from the earlier argument? Use two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one school policy you think should change. Write exactly four sentences, 65 to 85 words: state your claim, give two reasons or pieces of evidence, and end with a conclusion that recommends a clear action and follows from your reasons.

ANSWER KEY

Conclusions That Count

GRADE 10 · 10.W.1.B.iv

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's claim and each reason or piece of evidence. Circle the final recommendation, then draw arrows from two earlier ideas that support it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What policy does the author argue Riverton High should adopt?	**The school should adopt an 8:30 a.m. start time, beginning with a one-year trial.**
2	Give one piece of evidence the author uses to support a later start time.	**The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later, or districts with delayed starts have reported more sleep and less daytime tiredness.**
3	What concern about a later start does the author address, and what response does the author offer?	**The author addresses possible conflicts with sports, jobs, and bus schedules. The district could coordinate routes, schedule some practices before school, and survey students with after-school jobs.**
4	How does the final recommendation follow from the earlier argument? Use two details from the passage.	**It responds to the evidence that later starts can help students sleep and to the scheduling concerns. A one-year trial allows the school to plan for logistics and review results before making a permanent decision.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Riverton High should create a quiet lunch space in the library. Some students need a calmer place to eat, read, or finish work when the cafeteria is crowded and noisy. The library already has tables and supervision, so the school could test the space without building a new room. Therefore, the principal should open the quiet lunch space for one month and collect student feedback before making it permanent.

Accept conclusions that clearly recommend an action and connect that action to the writer's stated reasons or evidence. Strong responses may also address a concern or propose a practical way to evaluate the recommendation.