

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 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." Her experience is common, not simply a personal complaint. 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. Researchers at the University of Minnesota found that later school start times were associated with improved attendance and graduation rates in several districts. 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.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

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 story gives a concrete example of a tired student, while the American Academy of Pediatrics, CDC, and University of Minnesota provide credible evidence that the problem is broader than one student.

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. On a rainy afternoon, Luis pointed at his soaked backpack and said, "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.