

Evidence Before Action

Read a model analysis that weighs sources before reaching a conclusion.

11.W.1.B.ii "Write analyses that: Interpret and investigate evidence from various sources and texts to draw reasonable conclusions that support the writer's position or assertion."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each claim or conclusion. Circle each piece of evidence, then number the evidence that most strongly supports the writer's recommendation.

Should Riverton Start Later?

- ① Riverton High should move its first bell from 7:25 to 8:30. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools begin at 8:30 a.m. or later because teenagers' sleep cycles shift later during puberty. This recommendation is not simply a preference for sleeping in. It connects the proposed schedule to adolescent biology. A 2023 Riverton student survey adds local evidence: 68 percent of respondents reported sleeping fewer than eight hours on school nights. Together, the medical guidance and the survey suggest that the current start time conflicts with many students' need for sleep.
- ② Critics may argue that a later bell would disrupt buses and after-school activities. A district transportation report estimates that changing routes could cost \$42,000 in the first year. That cost deserves attention, but it does not settle the issue. The school's attendance records show that first-period absences were 31 percent higher than absences in second period during the 2022-23 year. Because attendance records measure actual student behavior at this school, they strengthen the case that the earliest class creates a problem. The report identifies a real obstacle, while the records point to a reason to solve it.
- ③ Rather than make a permanent change immediately, Riverton could test an 8:30 start for one semester and compare results with the same months from the previous year. The National Sleep Foundation states that teens ages 14 to 17 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep per night, so the survey result raises a meaningful concern. Still, the survey cannot prove that an earlier bell alone caused students' short sleep, since homework, jobs, and phones may also affect it. During a trial, leaders should examine attendance, course grades, bus costs, and student sleep reports. This evidence would support a more reasonable final decision than either ignoring the concern or assuming one schedule change will fix everything.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the writer's main position? Explain how the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation and the Riverton survey work together to support it.

2 How does the writer interpret the transportation report differently from the attendance records?

3 Why does the writer consider the attendance records especially useful evidence?

4 What limitation does the writer identify in the student survey, and how does that limitation affect the final recommendation?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 100-130-word recommendation to Riverton's school board about the proposed later start. State a clear position, interpret at least three pieces of evidence from the passage, and explain one limitation or counterargument before drawing a conclusion.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each claim or conclusion. Circle each piece of evidence, then number the evidence that most strongly supports the writer's recommendation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's main position? Explain how the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation and the Riverton survey work together to support it.	The writer supports a later start time. The medical recommendation connects later starts to teen biology, and the survey shows that many local students report too little sleep.
2	How does the writer interpret the transportation report differently from the attendance records?	The transportation report is treated as a real cost and obstacle, while the attendance records are treated as evidence that the early first period creates a local problem worth solving.
3	Why does the writer consider the attendance records especially useful evidence?	They measure actual student behavior at Riverton High, showing that first-period absences were 31 percent higher than second-period absences.
4	What limitation does the writer identify in the student survey, and how does that limitation affect the final recommendation?	The survey cannot prove that the early bell alone causes short sleep because other factors may contribute. Therefore, the writer recommends a trial and more evidence instead of an immediate permanent change.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Riverton should run a one-semester 8:30 start-time trial before adopting a permanent schedule. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation matters because it links later starts to teenagers' biological sleep patterns, not convenience. Local survey data show that 68 percent of respondents sleep under eight hours, which suggests the concern affects many Riverton students. In addition, first-period absences were 31 percent higher than second-period absences, so the early schedule may interfere with arriving at school. The \$42,000 transportation estimate is a serious counterargument, and the survey cannot prove the bell time causes short sleep. However, a trial could compare attendance, grades, costs, and sleep reports. Those results would let the board weigh benefits against expenses using stronger local evidence.

Accept conclusions that use evidence accurately and explain how it supports the student's position. The response should interpret at least three sources or data points, address a limitation or counterargument, and remain within 100 to 130 words.