Speak With Sources

Notice how a speaker connects an opinion to reliable evidence.

6.C.2.A.vii "Report orally on a topic or present an opinion. This includes: Referencing source material as appropriate during the presentation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that names or introduces a source. Circle the opinion or claim that the source information supports.

A Later First Bell

1. Good morning. I think our middle school should begin classes later than 8:00 a.m. Many students arrive tired, and tiredness can make learning harder. The American Academy of Pediatrics states that middle and high schools should aim for start times of 8:30 a.m. or later. That recommendation is based on teens' sleep needs, not on a single student's experience. A later bell would not solve every problem, but it could give students a better chance to be alert in first period.

2. When I looked for evidence, I checked sources written by health experts instead of relying on social media posts. The National Sleep Foundation says teens ages 14 to 17 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night. In its 2014 policy statement, the American Academy of Pediatrics reported that later school start times can improve sleep duration, attendance, and academic performance. These sources do not prove that every student will feel rested. They do show that sleep is a school issue worth considering.

3. For this reason, I propose that our school study a later start time for one year. Before making a decision, leaders should compare bus schedules, family needs, and attendance records. They should also ask students and caregivers what changes would work. During a presentation, I would name my sources aloud, such as saying, "The National Sleep Foundation says..." I would also list the sources on a final slide. Clear source references help listeners tell the difference between evidence and my opinion.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What opinion does the speaker state in the first paragraph?

2. Which source does the speaker use to support the claim about how many hours teens need to sleep?

3. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement, what can later school start times improve?

4. What two actions would the speaker take to make source references clear in a presentation?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 4- to 5-sentence script for an oral opinion about one school change you think would help students. State your opinion, name a reliable source aloud, include one fact from that source, and explain how the fact supports your opinion.

ANSWER KEY

Speak With Sources

GRADE 6 · 6.C.2.A.vii

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that names or introduces a source. Circle the opinion or claim that the source information supports. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What opinion does the speaker state in the first paragraph?	**The speaker thinks the middle school should begin classes later than 8:00 a.m.**
2	Which source does the speaker use to support the claim about how many hours teens need to sleep?	**The National Sleep Foundation.**
3	According to the American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement, what can later school start times improve?	**Sleep duration, attendance, and academic performance.**
4	What two actions would the speaker take to make source references clear in a presentation?	**Name sources aloud during the presentation and list the sources on a final slide.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I think our school should add a ten-minute movement break between two long classes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children and adolescents ages 6 through 17 need 60 minutes or more of physical activity each day. This evidence supports giving students another chance to move during the school day. A movement break would not replace PE, but it could help students build active time.

Accept quoted or accurately paraphrased source references from the passage. For the open task, accept a clear opinion supported by a named reliable source, an accurate fact, and an explanation connecting the fact to the opinion.