Evidence Under Review

Trace an argument and judge the evidence that supports it.

7.RI.1.C "Trace the argument and specific claims in texts and assess whether all the evidence presented is relevant and whether irrelevant evidence was introduced."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's main argument, circle each claim that supports it, and write R or I beside every evidence detail to show whether it is relevant or irrelevant.

A Later Bell?

1. Our school board should move the middle school start time from 7:35 to 8:30 a.m. This change would give many students more time to sleep before class. The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that middle and high schools start at 8:30 a.m. or later because teenagers need adequate sleep for health, safety, and learning. In a 2023 student survey, 62 percent of our eighth graders said they usually sleep fewer than eight hours on school nights. The school mascot, a hawk, was chosen by students in 1998.

2. Later starts can also help students arrive ready to learn. A 2018 study published in Science Advances examined a Seattle high school that delayed its start time by nearly an hour. Students slept about 34 minutes longer each night, and their median grades rose by 4.5 percent. Our district would need to adjust bus routes, but that challenge does not erase the possible benefits. Last spring, the cafeteria added a popular spicy chicken sandwich to its menu.

3. Some families may worry that a later start would make after-school activities end later. The board should study practice schedules and talk with bus drivers before choosing a plan. Still, a scheduling concern is a reason to plan carefully, not a reason to ignore evidence about student sleep. Schools in the district already use the same blue-and-gold colors on their websites. By weighing the useful evidence and the practical concern, the board can make a better decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's main argument?

2. Name two claims the writer uses to support the main argument.

3. Which three details in the passage are irrelevant to the argument? Explain why they are irrelevant.

4. Is the detail about adjusting bus routes relevant evidence? Explain your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence argument about a school decision, such as adding a water refill station or creating a quiet lunch area. State a claim, include two relevant evidence details and one irrelevant detail, and label each evidence detail relevant or irrelevant.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence Under Review

GRADE 7 · 7.RI.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's main argument, circle each claim that supports it, and write R or I beside every evidence detail to show whether it is relevant or irrelevant. 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 argument?	**The school board should move the middle school start time from 7:35 to 8:30 a.m.**
2	Name two claims the writer uses to support the main argument.	**Later starts would give students more time to sleep, and later starts can help students arrive ready to learn.**
3	Which three details in the passage are irrelevant to the argument? Explain why they are irrelevant.	**The hawk mascot, the spicy chicken sandwich, and the district's blue-and-gold website colors are irrelevant. None helps show whether a later start time would improve sleep, learning, or scheduling.**
4	Is the detail about adjusting bus routes relevant evidence? Explain your answer.	**Yes. It is relevant because bus routes are a practical scheduling issue the board would need to consider when changing the start time.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a water refill station near the gym. Students often wait in line at the nearby fountain after practice, which is relevant because a new station could shorten the wait. A bottle-filling station would help students refill reusable bottles, which is relevant because it would provide water quickly. The gym floor is painted green, which is irrelevant because its color does not show whether a refill station is useful.

Accept equivalent wording for the main argument and supporting claims. For relevance judgments, students should explain a clear connection, or lack of connection, to student sleep, learning, safety, or planning for a later start.