Build the Case

Analyze how a writer builds a persuasive case with evidence and reasoning.

7.W.1 "Modes and Purposes for Writing Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or to alter an existing text, using a variety of precise words and phrases and transitional words to develop the characters, convey sequence..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's main claim and each reason that supports it. Circle facts or source-based details that serve as evidence, then notice how the paragraphs build the argument.

A Better Start Time

1. Riverton Middle School should begin classes at 8:30 instead of 7:45. This change would give students more time to sleep, which can improve alertness during first-period learning. The American Academy of Pediatrics has said that middle and high schools should aim for start times of 8:30 a.m. or later to help adolescents get enough sleep. A later bell would not solve every learning problem, but it would remove one daily barrier that many students face before they open a book.

2. Research gives a practical reason for the proposal. Teenagers' body clocks naturally shift later during puberty, so many do not feel sleepy early enough to fall asleep soon after dinner. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that most middle and high school students do not get the sleep they need on school nights. When a student arrives exhausted, paying attention, remembering directions, and participating in discussion become harder. Therefore, moving the schedule later connects a health need to a classroom benefit.

3. Some families may worry that a later start would push sports, jobs, or bus schedules later in the day. School leaders should study those effects and adjust routes or activity times where possible. Still, scheduling difficulties are reasons to plan carefully, not reasons to ignore student sleep. Districts that consider a later bell can ask transportation staff, coaches, families, and students for solutions before changing the timetable. Because the proposal addresses both learning and health while allowing room for planning, Riverton should test an 8:30 start for one semester.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. State the writer's main claim in your own words.

2. Identify two pieces of evidence the writer uses to support the claim.

3. How does the writer connect sleep to a classroom benefit?

4. What concern does paragraph 3 address, and how does the writer respond to it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one persuasive paragraph of 85 to 105 words proposing a change at your school. State a clear claim, include two concrete details as evidence, explain how the details support your claim, and address one possible concern.

ANSWER KEY

Build the Case

GRADE 7 · 7.W.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's main claim and each reason that supports it. Circle facts or source-based details that serve as evidence, then notice how the paragraphs build the argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	State the writer's main claim in your own words.	**Riverton Middle School should start classes at 8:30 instead of 7:45.**
2	Identify two pieces of evidence the writer uses to support the claim.	**The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends start times of 8:30 a.m. or later, and the CDC reports that most middle and high school students do not get the sleep they need on school nights.**
3	How does the writer connect sleep to a classroom benefit?	**The writer explains that exhausted students have more difficulty paying attention, remembering directions, and joining discussions, so more sleep could improve learning.**
4	What concern does paragraph 3 address, and how does the writer respond to it?	**It addresses worries about later sports, jobs, and bus schedules. The writer says leaders should plan for those effects and seek solutions rather than ignore student sleep.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Riverton Middle School should install covered bike racks near the main entrance. On rainy mornings, bicycles left in the open have wet seats and slippery handlebars. The current rack is also far from the door, so students must cross the busy drop-off lane twice. A covered rack beside the entrance would protect bikes and make arriving safer. Although building it would cost money, the school could begin with a small shelter that holds twenty bicycles. This practical change would make biking to school a more useful choice for students.

Accept equivalent wording for the claim, evidence, and reasoning questions when students accurately use details from the passage. For the paragraph, look for a focused school-related claim, two concrete supporting details, clear reasoning, and a response to a reasonable concern.