Evidence Moves Ideas

Trace how evidence and reasoning build a persuasive case.

8.W.1.C "Write persuasively, supporting well-defined points of view effectively with relevant evidence and clear reasoning in ways that logically advance the claim(s) made."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the central claim and each reason, circle each piece of evidence, and draw an arrow from each evidence detail to the sentence that explains why it supports the claim.

A Better Time to Learn

1. Our district should move the middle and high school start time to 8:30 a.m. or later. Teenagers' body clocks naturally shift during puberty, making it harder for many of them to fall asleep early enough for a 7:25 start. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools begin at 8:30 or later. A later bell would match school schedules more closely to students' sleep needs, giving them a fairer chance to arrive alert and ready to learn.

2. Some people worry that a later start would push sports, jobs, and family routines later in the day. That concern deserves planning, but it does not outweigh the health reason for change. In 2014, the American Academy of Pediatrics explained that early school schedules contribute to chronic sleep loss for many adolescents. District leaders could adjust bus routes and practice times, as other schedule changes already require. Solving transportation details is practical work, while ignoring widespread sleep loss leaves the central problem untouched.

3. A later start is not a promise that every student will sleep more, because homework, screens, and home responsibilities also affect bedtime. Still, a school schedule should not make healthy sleep harder before students even make their own choices. The district should test an 8:30 start for one school year and collect attendance, tardiness, and student sleep-survey data. If the trial improves students' ability to arrive on time and feel rested, the board should keep the later schedule. This measured plan uses evidence to guide a lasting decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's central claim?

2. Identify one piece of expert evidence in paragraph 1 or 2. Explain how it supports the claim.

3. What concern does the writer acknowledge in paragraph 2, and how does the writer respond to it?

4. Why does the proposed one-year trial logically support the writer's final recommendation?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one change your school should make. Write one persuasive paragraph of 90 to 120 words that states a clear claim, uses at least two relevant facts or examples, explains how each supports the claim, and addresses one reasonable concern.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 8 · 8.W.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the central claim and each reason, circle each piece of evidence, and draw an arrow from each evidence detail to the sentence that explains why it supports the claim. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's central claim?	**The district should start middle and high school at 8:30 a.m. or later.**
2	Identify one piece of expert evidence in paragraph 1 or 2. Explain how it supports the claim.	**The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends starts at 8:30 or later and explains that early schedules contribute to adolescent sleep loss. This supports the claim that a later start better meets teens' sleep needs.**
3	What concern does the writer acknowledge in paragraph 2, and how does the writer respond to it?	**The writer acknowledges that sports, jobs, and family routines could end later in the day. The response is that bus routes and practice times can be adjusted, while sleep loss is a more important problem to address.**
4	Why does the proposed one-year trial logically support the writer's final recommendation?	**The trial would collect attendance, tardiness, and sleep-survey data, giving the board evidence about whether the later start helps students arrive on time and feel rested.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should install a water-bottle refill station near the gym. During last week's basketball practices, I saw players wait in line at the single fountain, and several brought disposable bottles instead. A refill station would fill bottles quickly, so students could return to class or practice with less waiting. It would also give students a convenient way to use reusable bottles. Some people may say installation costs too much. However, the school could compare prices and choose the location with the greatest daily use. A station near the gym would solve a repeated problem for many students.

Accept equivalent restatements of the claim and explanations that accurately connect the cited evidence to the claim. For the paragraph, look for a focused position, relevant support, clear reasoning, and a response to a realistic concern.