The Later Bell

Study how an argument connects claim, evidence, and reasoning.

8.W.1 "Modes and Purposes for Writing Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or to alter an existing text, using well-structured event sequences, precise words and phrases, and transitional words to develop the characters..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's claim and each piece of evidence. Circle transition words or phrases that show how the reasons, evidence, and response to a concern connect.

A Start Time That Fits Students

1 Our middle school should begin at 8:30 a.m. or later. The American Academy of Pediatrics says that middle and high schools should start at 8:30 or later so adolescents can get the sleep they need. During puberty, many teens naturally become sleepy later at night and wake later in the morning. Therefore, an earlier bell can force students to learn while their bodies are still prepared for sleep. A later start would match the school day more closely to students' changing sleep rhythms.

2 Sleep affects more than feeling alert. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, students ages 13 to 18 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night. Yet homework, sports, jobs, and family duties can make an early bedtime difficult. When school begins before 8:30, students may have to wake before they have slept enough. As a result, they may arrive tired and less ready to focus. A later start does not solve every sleep problem, but it gives families a schedule that makes healthy sleep more possible.

3 Some families worry that a later bell would interfere with bus routes, sports, or after-school care. Those concerns deserve careful planning, not dismissal. For example, districts can survey families, adjust transportation schedules, and phase in a new start time over one year. The change could also be reviewed after the first semester by comparing attendance data and student feedback. Because sleep supports students' health and readiness to learn, the school board should study an 8:30 start and publish a plan that addresses practical concerns.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

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

2. Name the two credible sources in the passage and explain what evidence each source provides.

3. How does the phrase "As a result" connect the ideas in paragraph 2?

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

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school change other than start times. Write a 4- to 6-sentence proposal that states a clear claim, uses two specific facts or concrete examples, names one credible source, responds to one concern, and uses at least two transition words or phrases.

ANSWER KEY # The Later Bell

GRADE 8 · 8.W.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's claim and each piece of evidence. Circle transition words or phrases that show how the reasons, evidence, and response to a concern connect. 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.	**The school should start at 8:30 a.m. or later.**
2	Name the two credible sources in the passage and explain what evidence each source provides.	**The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 8:30 or later starts for middle and high schools. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says ages 13 to 18 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night.**
3	How does the phrase "As a result" connect the ideas in paragraph 2?	**It shows that waking before getting enough sleep can cause students to arrive tired and less ready to focus.**
4	What concern does the writer acknowledge in paragraph 3, and how does the writer respond to it?	**The writer acknowledges worries about buses, sports, and after-school care, then suggests surveying families, adjusting schedules, phasing in the change, and reviewing results.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should install refill stations near the gym and cafeteria. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, plain drinking water has no calories, so students could choose water without buying sweet drinks. In addition, the stations would let students refill reusable bottles between classes instead of carrying several disposable bottles. Some people may worry about cost. However, the school could add one station first and track how often students use it before paying for more.

Accept equivalent claims and explanations when students accurately connect evidence to the claim. For the proposal, accept different school issues if the response includes all required elements and uses evidence or concrete details that logically support the claim.