# Evidence Builders: School Start Times and Space Timing

Date Created: August 31, 2026
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## Lesson:

This packet contains one short argument about school start times. Read it before you answer anything. Every response you write must point at a specific detail in that text and explain how the detail supports your answer. The RACE steps below are the pattern to follow.

Should middle school start later in the morning? Some students think school should start later, and others disagree. A later start could help students get more sleep, which may improve attention and mood during morning classes. It could also help students who stay up late because of homework or family responsibilities. However, a later start may create problems for bus schedules, after-school jobs, and sports practices. Even with those challenges, many students and parents believe that better rest would help students learn more effectively.

Consider how space explorers prepare for a launch. They depend on good timing and preparation, because one small delay can affect the whole mission. Astronauts never launch a rocket at a random hour; they wait for the moment that gives the mission its best chance of success. A school day works in a similar way: it runs best when the schedule supports student success. Some people argue that starting later gives middle school students a better chance to be alert and ready to learn. Others worry about changing routines, but the strongest reason for change is that rested students are more focused, and focused students can participate more fully in class.

### Three pieces of evidence

> *A later start could help students get more sleep, which may improve attention and mood during morning classes. It could also help students who stay up late because of homework or family responsibilities. However, a later start may create problems for bus schedules, after-school jobs, and sports practices.*

1. “A later start could help students get more sleep, which may improve attention and mood during morning classes.” — Evidence 1: sleep
2. “It could also help students who stay up late because of homework or family responsibilities.” — Evidence 2: late nights
3. “However, a later start may create problems for bus schedules, after-school jobs, and sports practices.” — Counter-evidence

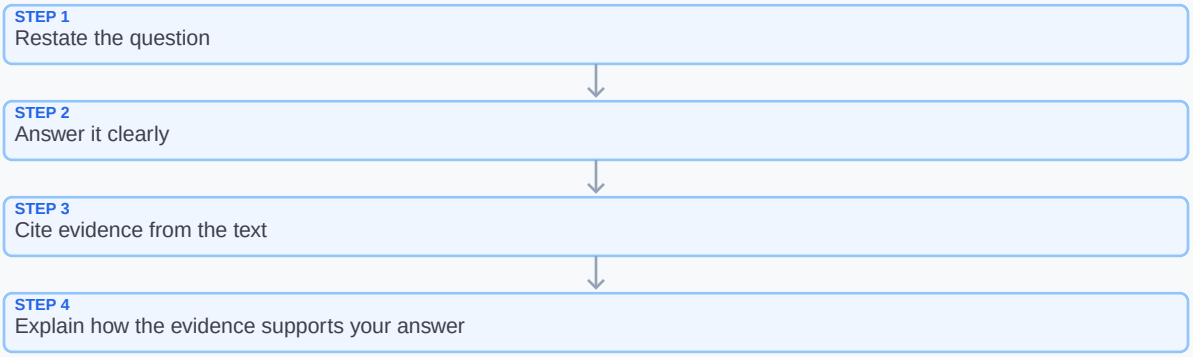
Two reasons for a later start and one problem against it. Quote the words inside a mark when you cite.

A strong response does more than give an opinion or a guess. It shows the reader where the answer comes from in the text. When you use evidence, choose words, details, or facts that clearly match your answer. Then explain how that evidence proves your point.

One helpful way to organize a response is RACE: Restate the question, Answer it clearly, Cite evidence from the text, and Explain how the evidence supports your answer. This structure helps your response stay focused and complete.

### How a strong response works

SEQUENCE




Show the steps a response should follow: restate, answer, cite, explain.

Worked response, step R: The question asks whether school should start later.

Worked response, step A: A later start would help students learn better.

Worked response, step C: The text says, "A later start could help students get more sleep, which may improve attention and mood during morning classes."

Worked response, step E: More sleep can improve attention, so students are ready to focus and participate.

A response should fit the question and use only the evidence that matters. If the text says students may get more sleep, that evidence can support a response about alertness or attention. If the text says schedules could be disrupted, that evidence can support a response about challenges. Good readers select evidence carefully instead of copying random sentences.

**Claim, evidence, reasoning**

CLAIM
**School should start later**

REASON 1
Rested students learn better

- more sleep may improve attention and mood (paragraph 1)
- focused students participate more fully (last sentence)

REASON 2
It helps students who are up late

- homework or family responsibilities (paragraph 1)

REASON 3
The writer answers one objection

- bus schedules, jobs, and sports practices (paragraph 1)

The writer's claim sits on two supports and answers one objection. Your response should do the same.

Your turn, step R: Restate this question in your own words: does the writer favor a later start?

Your turn, step A: Answer it in one sentence.

Your turn, step C: Cite the detail that shows how many reasons the writer gives for each side.

Your turn, step E: Explain what that balance of reasons tells you about the writer's position.

> Inference matters when the answer is not stated directly. You may need to infer what a writer believes by looking at the details they include. If a passage gives three reasons for one side and only one concern for the other, the writer may be leaning toward the first side. The evidence shows the position even when the writer does not say it in one sentence.

Your turn, step R: Restate this question: why does the writer compare a school day to a space launch?

Your turn, step A: Answer it in one sentence.

Your turn, step C: Cite the sentence about timing and preparation before a launch.

Your turn, step E: Explain what that comparison shows about a school schedule.

## Instructions:

Read each prompt carefully. Use the text evidence provided in the lesson ideas to answer in 1

to 3 complete sentences. Some items ask you to explain, compare, or fix a mistake. Use RACE when it helps: Restate, Answer, Cite, Explain. Give the best evidence from the text, not just your opinion.

**1.** What is one reason the text gives for starting school later?

**2.** A student says, 'The text only talks about problems with later start times.' What evidence shows this is incorrect?

**3.** A student wrote: 'School should start later because it is better for everyone.' What is the mistake in that response?

**4.** A student wrote this response: 'I think later school start times are better because students can be more alert. The text says more sleep may improve attention and mood.' What part of the RACE structure is this response mainly showing?

**5.** Which detail from the text is a stronger reason for a later start: more sleep or bus schedule problems? Explain your choice.

**6.** Complete the response: 'School should start later because ____.' Use one detail from the text and explain it in your own words.

**7.** Why does the writer include both benefits and challenges about starting school later?

**8.** The writer says some people worry about changing routines, but the strongest reason for change is that rested students are more focused. What does this sentence suggest about the writer's point of view?

**9.** The text says space explorers depend on good timing and preparation before a launch. What idea does this comparison help readers understand about school schedules?

**10.** Write a two-sentence response to this idea: 'Middle school students should start school later.' Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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## (Answer Key)

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**1.** What is one reason the text gives for starting school later?
*Hint: Look for a benefit mentioned in the text.*

**Expected Key Points:**
- Mentions one reason for a later start
- Uses evidence from the text
- Connects sleep to attention or mood

*Evaluation Criteria: Answer should identify one supported reason from the text and explain it clearly.*

Explanation: The passage says a later start could help students get more sleep, which may improve attention and mood.

**2.** A student says, 'The text only talks about problems with later start times.' What evidence shows this is incorrect?
*Hint: Find a benefit mentioned in the text.*

**Expected Key Points:**
- Names a benefit from the text
- Shows the student's statement is incorrect
- May mention more sleep or better focus

*Evaluation Criteria: Answer should use text evidence to correct the mistaken claim.*

Explanation: The text includes benefits such as more sleep, better attention, better mood, and more focus, so it does not only talk about problems.

**3.** A student wrote: 'School should start later because it is better for everyone.' What is the mistake in that response?
*Hint: Think about evidence.*

**Expected Key Points:**
- Notices the claim is too broad
- Explains that specific evidence is missing
- May mention the need for details like sleep or alertness

*Evaluation Criteria: Answer should identify that the statement lacks specific textual evidence and explain why that is a problem.*

Explanation: The response is too general. It gives an opinion but does not use specific evidence from the text to support the claim.

**4.** A student wrote this response: 'I think later school start times are better because students can be more alert. The text says more sleep may improve attention and mood.' What part of the RACE structure is this response mainly showing?
*Hint: Look for the part where the student uses text evidence.*

**Expected Key Points:**
- Identifies Cite
- Mentions text evidence
- May explain that the quote supports the answer

*Evaluation Criteria: Answer should identify the RACE step that uses evidence from the text.*

Explanation: This response mainly shows Cite because it includes a detail from the text as evidence.

**5.** Which detail from the text is a stronger reason for a later start: more sleep or bus schedule problems? Explain your choice.
*Hint: Choose the detail that supports the positive side.*

**Expected Key Points:**
- Chooses more sleep as the stronger reason
- Explains the effect on attention or mood
- Uses evidence from the passage

*Evaluation Criteria: Answer should compare the two details and justify why one is stronger using textual evidence.*

Explanation: More sleep is the stronger reason because the text says it may improve attention, mood, and readiness to learn.

**6.** Complete the response: 'School should start later because ____.' Use one detail from the text and explain it in your own words.
*Hint: Use one detail about sleep, attention, or mood.*

**Expected Key Points:**
- States a clear claim
- Includes one accurate detail from the text
- Explains how the detail supports the claim

*Evaluation Criteria: Answer should complete the claim with accurate textual evidence and a simple explanation.*

Explanation: A strong response states a claim and supports it with one clear detail from the text, such as more sleep leading to better attention.

**7.** Why does the writer include both benefits and challenges about starting school later?
*Hint: Think about balance in an argument.*

**Expected Key Points:**
- Mentions balance or fairness
- Explains that both benefits and challenges are included
- May infer that the writer leans toward later starts

*Evaluation Criteria: Answer should explain why both sides are included and may infer the writer's position from the details.*

Explanation: The writer includes both sides to show a balanced argument, but the evidence suggests the writer still favors a later start.

**8.** The writer says some people worry about changing routines, but the strongest reason for change is that rested students are more focused. What does this sentence suggest about the writer's point of view?
*Hint: Think about which side sounds stronger.*

**Expected Key Points:**
- Infers the writer's point of view
- Uses the phrase strongest reason
- Explains that benefits outweigh worries

*Evaluation Criteria: Answer should make an inference about the writer's position based on the language and details in the text.*

Explanation: It suggests the writer supports starting school later because the benefits seem more important than the worries.

**9.** The text says space explorers depend on good timing and preparation before a launch. What idea does this comparison help readers understand about school schedules?
*Hint: Think about why the writer mentions a space launch.*

**Expected Key Points:**
- Explains the connection to timing
- Mentions success or preparation
- Connects space exploration to school schedules

*Evaluation Criteria: Answer should explain what the comparison suggests about the importance of timing and preparation.*

Explanation: The comparison shows that timing matters because a schedule can affect success, just like launch timing affects a mission.

**10.** Write a two-sentence response to this idea: 'Middle school students should start school later.' Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
*Hint: Sentence 1: restate your answer.*

**Expected Key Points:**
- Restates the opinion
- Cites relevant evidence from the text
- Explains how the evidence supports the opinion

*Evaluation Criteria: Answer should give a complete two-sentence response with clear evidence and explanation.*

Explanation: A strong response restates the opinion, uses evidence about sleep or focus, and explains how that evidence supports the answer.