



Writing Annotations

Grade: **9**

Date Used: January 2010
Year Originated: 2003

Scoring: 4-Strand by 4-Levels

Mode:

Persuasive

Prompt:

Many people have expressed concern about the starting time for high school. The school board has suggested that the hours spent in school stay the same, but begin and end two hours later. For example, instead of starting at 7:30 and ending at 2:00, the school day would begin at 9:30 and end at 4:00. In a multi-paragraph letter to the school board, take a position on this proposal and convince them to agree with your position.

Writing Sample

03964a

Grade 9 Year 2003

1 Dear School board:

2
3 Why even consider changing
4 the times that school begins
5 and ends? did you even consider
6 the outcome of this? If
7 you change the times some
8 student will benefit but
9 not all.

10
11 IF school was to start
12 two hours later the
13 students would get
14 more sleep. If the students
15 got more sleep they would
16 more than likely do better.

17
18 But you still need
19 to think about student's that
20 work, there are students
21 that need that money,
22 because, their parents can't
23 get to work, even with
24 home work the students
25 day's have already been
26 shattered. please don't make
27 me starve on that
28 subject.

29
30 there are some
31 student that play

Writing Sample

03964b

Grade 9 Year 2003

32 sports for the schouls, the
33 new times will effect
34 that, plus what about
35 the parents they can't
36 just drop certain things
37 for the new times, and
38 tax payers + have money
39 not going to the school
40 why not ask them.

41
42 Thank you for your
43 time I hope you
44 make the right decision.

45
46
47 Sincerely

48 J [REDACTED] R [REDACTED]

49 J [REDACTED] R [REDACTED]
50

Writing Sample

03969a

Grade 9 Year 2003

1 School should begin and end at the same
2 time, from 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM. If school
3 were to start at 9:30 AM and go until 4:00,
4 kids wouldn't be able to do their usual
5 activities. By changing the school timing,
6 students would not get more sleep. The
7 pupils won't have enough time to finish
8 assigned tasks. I think high school
9 time should remain the same.

10 High school students have more than
11 just a life at school. Besides school work,
12 we have after-school sports, chores, dinner,
13 homework, and every day activities. I
14 know I have all of the above on my
15 list plus more! I have to go to Sylvan
16 for two hours, therapy for an hour, and
17 I'm also in a program to help elementary
18 kids learn to read. With everything a
19 teenager has to do, how are we suppo
20 to complete our days.

21 Since all the students have so much
22 to do after seven hours of school, and at lea
23 two and one-half to three hours of homework
24 each night... When are we expected to go
25 to bed? If the school board were to shorten
26 our afternoons (which are needed to finish
27 a student's life) and lengthen our morning
28 we would never complete anything! Teenagers
29 need time to do homework and sports not
30 more time to get ready for school.

31 Teachers are forced to give us so much

Writing Sample

03969b

Grade 9 Year 2003

32 homework that it is almost impossible to
33 finish. Teens are expected to do so much
34 with three hours of homework each night
35 and six to seven hours of activities, there
36 is no way possible to finish everything
37 in a twenty-four hour day. If the dis-
38 rict chose to take our homework aw-
39 (since we have a seven hour day at
40 school.) then maybe we could fit the
41 new schedule into our lives.

42 Highschool needs to continue stayin
43 in the same time slot. Kids have way
44 to many activities, to shorten our work
45 hours. Teenagers need sleep so if you
46 shorten our working hours that means
47 we get up earlier to finish our work,
48 Students have way to much home-
49 work to shorten our working hours.
50 I think high school should start at
51 7:30 AM and end at 2:00 pm, so
52 us kids can have a peaceful life.

Writing Sample

03980a

Grade 9 Year 2003

1 Dear School Board Members,

2 It has come to my attention that many
3 people want to start and end the school day later.
4 In my opinion, this is an excellent idea. I feel that
5 I don't get enough sleep because school starts so early,
6 and that lack of sleep directly affects my ability to
7 perform in school. In this letter, I intend to give
8 three reasons why a later school day would be better
9 for students and parents, and cause the school board
10 no inconvenience for rescheduling after school activities.

11 As a Jazz Band member, I find myself waking
12 up at the ungodly hour of 5:30 am, just to shower,
13 dress, and be to school by 6:30. I don't have time to
14 eat breakfast, which studies have shown is the most important
15 meal of the day. Needless to say, I am very tired by
16 the time first period starts. In fact, I am so tired, I
17 have fallen asleep a countless number of times in that
18 class. Being so tired has affected my grades, and my
19 report card proves it. Last semester I had straight A's,
20 except for two A-'s. As you may have guessed, those two A-'s
21 were in my first two classes. The reason those two grades
22 were lower was because my test scores were low. In my
23 first two classes, my average score was an 86% B, but
24 in my last period class, when I was finally awake, my
25 average test score was a 97% A. I would do fine on
26 the homework in all the classes, which brings me to
27 my next point.

28 After school, I would get home around 2:30, and
29 be done with homework by 4:00. Neither one of my
30 parents, though, would get home until at least 6:00. That's
31 two hours alone in the house with nothing to do.

Writing Sample

03980b

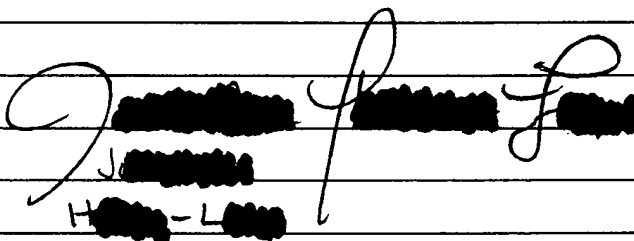
Grade 9 Year 2003

32 For kids my age, that is a serious problem. With this
33 extra time, a kid could wander the streets, and eventually
34 get caught up in drugs, violence, and alcohol. If the
35 day ended later, however, the kids wouldn't have the
36 unsupervised time, keeping more kids off the streets.

37 As a student athlete, I know ending later
38 wouldn't affect the sports schedule. All of my games this
39 year haven't started before 4:00, giving plenty of time
40 for the school day to continue. I also know that
41 for all the kids not fortunate enough to make the school
42 team, other leagues, such as little league or Babe Ruth,
43 don't start games before 6:30.

44 Starting and ending the school day later
45 is a very good idea. It allows kids to get more sleep,
46 and consequentially do better in school. It also gives kids
47 less unsupervised time that could lead to wandering the
48 streets. Also, the current extra-curricular schedule would not
49 have to be changed, because almost everything starts
50 by 4:00, allowing plenty of time for school to run
51 longer. Thank you for your time,

52
53 Sincerely,

54 
55 J. [redacted]
56 H. [redacted] - L. [redacted]

Writing Sample

03965a

Grade 9 Year 2003

Dear School board officials,

1 "The school bell rings. It's 2:00 and, even though
2 school is over, my day is just beginning. First, it's track
3 practice untill 4:30. Then, I'll have just enough time to
4 get home, shower, and get ready for my guitar lesson.
5 After an hour of straining over those tough chords
6 I'm able to grab a quick bite to eat before heading
7 to the grocery store where I work part time. Around
8 8:30 it's finally time to head home, but not to rest.
9 I still have homework to do and a speech to
10 edit for the upcoming student elections. I also
11 have to remember to get a birthday present for
12 Jill before Saturday... that math exam is coming
13 up soon... when am I going to find the time
14 to get a prom dress?... I wonder how long
15 that choir concert on Thursday is going to last..."

16 Above is an example of a typical day in
17 the typical life of a typical teenager. And some
18 people say we have it easy! I, for one, have
19 never found maintaining a 3.9 gpa (along with all
20 my other responsibilities) to be easy. The fact that
21 the school board thinks our lives begin and end
22 with that bell, and that they can change it at
23 will, is ridiculous.

24 Each minute of the day is valuable. To strip
25 away two hours from our afternoons everyday is
26 like robbery. That is ten hours every week, forty hours
27 a month, nearly 500 hours a year that the school
28 board thinks will be better spent between 7:30-
29 9:30 in the morning.

30 Some would say that starting school later
31 will allow teens to get more sleep. I don't know

Writing Sample

03965b

Grade 9 Year 2003

32 a single person who is at all sleep deprived and
33 who can't manage to go to bed at a reasonable
34 hour in order to wake when they should like
35 a mature high school student. We don't need the
36 school board to step in and try to solve this
37 make believe problem by rearranging our lives.
38 I have thought long and hard about
39 this issue and have decided that starting
40 school two hours later will interfere too much
41 with the obligations teens have in their
42 lives. It is unfair to force them to readjust
43 their lives based on this. What would they
44 be forced to cut out? Their jobs? Their school work?
45 Their friends and family? Maybe even their health?
46 That is a choice no one should have to
47 make. The high school start time should remain the
48 same.

Sincerely,

K. R.