

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

1 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

A student is writing an argumentative piece for his debate class on why high school students should be allowed to choose all of their classes. Read the paragraphs from the student's argument and the question that follows.

As they stand, high school students' schedules are overwhelming. Because they are forced to take too many classes, these students often struggle overall. When forced to take such varying subjects like literature, science, history, physical education, art, music, and mathematics, students often simply cannot retain all the information thrown at them. In addition, their schedules are so full of required classes that they do not have room for elective classes that they want to take.

I propose, instead of this forced schedule, that students be allowed to choose every class they take. Instead of suffering through mathematics, a student who knows she wants to be a journalist can focus on taking more literature and writing courses. Likewise, a student who knows he wants to be a banker can take more mathematics and fewer literature or science classes. Making all classes optional would maximize student interest and minimize student burnout.

The student found more information. Which piece of evidence supports the student's claim in his argumentative piece?

- A. Many elementary schools also require students to take mathematics each year.
- B. In general, high school students earn higher grades in elective classes than in required classes.
- C. Over half of all high school students attend at least some form of higher education after graduation.
- D. High schools in other countries also have a list of required classes for all students to take before graduation.

Master ID: 462574 Revision: 1

Correct: **B**

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have thought that this information was similar to the discussion of what classes high schoolers are required to take.
- B. Correct answer
- C. Student(s) may have thought that this was important to the overall argument of how the classes students take in high school affect them later in life.
- D. Student(s) may have thought this would support his argument, when, in fact, it really contradicts it.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.W.9-10.8

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

2 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Which of the following ideas provides additional support for the main idea below?

Exposure to music at a young age helps students understand mathematics.

- A. Many schools have taken out musical programs, cheating children out of their musical learning experience.
- B. To understand music, one needs to work with fractions, as in quarter and eighth notes.
- C. The study of music is much easier if one begins to learn it as a child.
- D. Children enjoy music because it gives them a chance to sing and dance.

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Correct: **B**

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have assumed that the statement that children would be "cheated out of their musical learning experience" is directly related to the idea that it helps them learn mathematics.
- B. Correct answer
- C. Student(s) may not have realized that this statement focuses on when one should begin learning music, not its relationship to mathematics.
- D. Student(s) may have focused on the idea that this relates to children and may have assumed that it is connected to the idea that music is related to mathematics.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.W.9-10.2.b

3 TEACHER READS:

Read and complete the task that follows.

Read the following claim from an argumentative essay.

Even though it would cause school to end much later in the day, the school day should be amended to start at 9:00 instead of 7:35 so that students could be more awake, alert, and ready to learn.

Explain what type of sources would provide the most credible evidence for the claim presented in the excerpt above.

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

Master ID: 278068 Revision: 1

Rubric: 2 Point(s)

2 The response:

- Provides a thorough explanation of the type(s) of credible sources
- Gives examples of what the sources may be
- Clarifies why the source(s) is/are the most credible for the claim presented

A good source to support this argumentative essay would be current academic periodicals or journals that have conducted research on schools that start their day later in the morning. These materials should show data on whether or not students' performance was positively influenced by starting the school day later. Other periodicals that would provide credible evidence could be sleep studies that were done on children and how their brains work first thing in the morning as opposed to a little later in the morning.

1 The response:

- Provides an explanation of the type(s) of sources
- Includes sources that may not be credible or too general for the claim
- May not provide clarity as to why the source(s) is/are the most credible to support the claim

Sources that would provide credible support for the claim in the argumentative essay are surveys from parents about their preference regarding when their children start their school day. Other primary sources would also be good to provide credible sources for the essay.

0 A response gets no credit if no sources are provided or are unrelated to the topic of the argumentative claim.

Beginning the school day later is a good idea because it is hard for students to wake up and learn first thing in the morning. Ask any student what they prefer and they will tell you that they will do better if they don't have to start their school day so early in the morning.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.W.9-10.1.b

4 TEACHER READS:

Read and complete the task that follows.

Read the following excerpt of an argumentative essay.

The Ideal Destination: New York City

It is important to have clear expectations and goals when deciding on where to go for vacation. The East Coast offers many historic and interesting locations that draw a large amount of tourists every year. The home of The White House and the Smithsonian Museums, Washington D.C., is a great place that everyone should visit. On the other hand, there are also locations that offer both a historical experience and an exciting one. New York City has attractions that young and old can appreciate such as Times Square and the Statue of Liberty. There are also ways to have fun in Washington D.C., such as taking a bicycle tour through the city or flying a kite on the lawn of the Washington Monument. It can be very difficult to find the right vacation destination.

Rewrite the paragraph above to make the claim clear.

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

Master ID: 278064 Revision: 1

Rubric: 2 Point(s)

2 The response:

- Provides a claim based on the information presented in the body of the paragraph
- Includes a claim that clearly addresses the prompt
- Contains some reasoning to support the claim

It is important to have clear expectations and goals when deciding on where to go for vacation. The East Coast offers many historic and interesting locations that draw a large amount of tourists every year. On the other hand, there are also locations that offer both a historical experience and an exciting one. New York City has attractions that young and old can appreciate. Times Square is bustling with excitement with its neon lights and large television screens. The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island offer a historical retrospective into American history. While in New York there are many opportunities to experience a Broadway show, television show taping, or great live music. New York City is the perfect choice for an East Coast vacation that offers a great combination of excitement and a look into America's past.

1 The response:

- Provides a claim that may be somewhat related to the information presented in the body of the paragraph
- Includes a claim that may not be clear in addressing the prompt
- May not contain any reasoning to support the claim

It is important to have clear expectations and goals when deciding on where to go for vacation. The East Coast offers many historic and interesting locations that draw a large amount of tourists every year. The home of The White House and the Smithsonian Museums, Washington D.C. is a great place that everyone should visit. On the other hand, there are also locations that offer both a historical experience and an exciting one. New York City is a better choice of where to go on vacation for all its advantages.

0 A response gets no credit if no claim is made or a claim is made that does not relate to the content of the paragraph.

It is important to have clear expectations and goals when deciding on where to go for vacation. The East Coast offers many historic and interesting locations that draw a large amount of tourists every year. The home of The White House and the Smithsonian Museums, Washington D.C. is a great place that everyone should visit. On the other hand, there are also locations that offer both a historical experience and an exciting one. New York City has attractions that young and old can appreciate such as Times Square and the Statue of Liberty. There are also ways to have fun in Washington D.C. such as taking a Bicycle Tour through the city or flying a kite on the lawn of the Washington Monument. Vacations take a lot of money and planning.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.W.9-10.1.a