

Student Writing Model

Academic Writing Type

A **justification** states a claim and supports it with logical reasons and relevant evidence from texts.

- A. The **topic sentence** clearly states the writer's claim about the issue.
- B. **Detail sentences** support the claim with reasons and evidence from texts.
- C. The **concluding sentence** restates the writer's claim about the issue.



ANALYZE TEXT

Read this student model to analyze the elements of a justification.

A

Evidence from the texts supports the idea that schools should alter start times to accommodate adolescents' sleep needs. One reason is that adolescents would be more alert in school with a later start time. Denise Grady points out in "Sleep Is One Thing Missing in Busy Teenage Lives" that teachers in MN reported that students were less likely to fall asleep in morning classes when they had a one-hour delay in school start time (13). This evidence makes it quite clear that being able to sleep adequately and eat breakfast enables teens to focus instead of nap during early morning classes. An additional reason is that many teens cannot help how sleep-deprived they are in the early morning. In "Understanding the Zombie Teen's Body Clock," Sue Shellenbarger explains how hormones and puberty cause teens' internal clocks to change during adolescence so that they want to stay up later and sleep later (17). This is significant because while younger siblings and parents are becoming tired and preparing to sleep, teens feel wide awake and have trouble settling down. For these reasons, high schools should start later to match teens' sleep patterns.

B

C



MARK & DISCUSS ELEMENTS

Mark the justification elements and use the frames to discuss them with your partner.

1. Circle the writer's claim within the topic sentence. The writer's claim is _____.
2. Draw a box around four transition words or phrases.
One transition (word/phrase) is _____.
3. Underline and label two reasons that support the writer's claim with the letter R.
One reason that supports the writer's claim is _____.
4. Underline and label two pieces of evidence that support the writer's claim with the letter E. One piece of evidence that supports the writer's claim is _____.
5. Star four precise topic words and check four high-utility academic words.
An example of a (precise topic word/high-utility academic word) is _____.