

Writing Feedback

DAY 5 | 17th April | HOLIDAY WRITING HOMEWORK

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph)

Strengths: Your introduction captures attention with a vivid scenario that appeals to emotions. Your thesis statement is clear about opposing later school start times.

Weakness: Misalignment with prompt → Your piece argues against later school starts when the prompt asks you to persuade readers why schools should start later. The entire argument goes in the opposite direction of what was requested. Your opening paragraph states "Schools shouldn't start later" when you were asked to argue why they should start later.

Exemplar: *I envision a world where students arrive at school refreshed and alert, having enjoyed sufficient sleep that boosts their learning capacity. Starting school later at 10 AM rather than 8 AM would improve academic performance, support adolescent health, and create more positive learning environments.*

#2 (Second paragraph)

Strengths: You attempt to use data to support your position with the mention of "studies show" and the statistic about "missing assignments drop by 25%".

Weakness: Logical inconsistency → There's confusion in your argument as you state "Schools shouldn't start earlier" but then describe benefits of an earlier start time (ending at 2 rather than 4). This creates contradiction that weakens your persuasive impact. Additionally, your evidence about missing assignments dropping doesn't clearly connect to your main argument.

Exemplar: *Research from the American Academy of Pediatrics shows that adolescents who get adequate sleep demonstrate improved academic performance, with studies indicating up to 25% higher grades when teenagers receive the recommended 8-10 hours of sleep that later school starts facilitate.*

#3 (Fourth paragraph)

Strengths: You consider safety concerns and use rhetorical questions to engage the reader. Your attempt to reference specific times for sunset shows attention to detail.

Weakness: Factual confusion → Your reasoning about after-school activities and sunset times contains inaccuracies. If school starts at 10 AM instead of 8 AM, this would mean finishing at 4:30 PM rather than 2:30 PM. Your statement about sunset times in June being 5 PM conflicts with common knowledge that summer months have later sunsets (not earlier).

Exemplar: *While some worry about after-school activities in darker hours, research shows that the safety risks of sleep-deprived teenagers driving to early morning classes far outweigh concerns about afternoon activities. Studies from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration demonstrate that accident rates among teenage drivers decrease by up to 70% when schools implement later start times.*

■ Your piece needs significant revision as it argues the opposite position from what the prompt requests. Instead of persuading readers why schools should start later, you've constructed arguments against later start times. Your paragraphs would benefit from clearer topic sentences that support a pro-later start time position. Also, your evidence requires more accurate data and research that specifically supports adolescent health benefits from later school starts. You could strengthen your writing by considering counterarguments to address concerns about after-school activities, but then explaining how the benefits of later starts outweigh these concerns. Additionally, your conclusion needs to summarize the positive impacts of later school times rather than the negatives. Your paragraphs need restructuring to build a logical progression that leads readers to agree with later start times.

Overall Score: 38/50

Section 2:

Imagine a world where schools won't interfere with after-school activities, students enjoying the freedom of getting an early break from school, happiness explodes from children whether it's shopping at the mall or playing at the park. Schools shouldn't

start later in the morning because it will cause delay in all activities, interfere with bedtime, and can be a potential danger to students. #1

Have you ever missed out on playdates because you still had to stay at school? Schools shouldn't start ~~earlier~~ [later] because it can interfere with activities. If school started at 8 o'clock, students would have lots more time after school as it will end at 2 o'clock rather than 4. Studies show in that two hours, the amount of missing assignments ~~drop~~ [drops] by 25%. Kids can also play more, increasing their happiness and ~~can get~~ [getting] them to do homework earlier, thus improving grades. This is why schools shouldn't start later. #2

Another reason schools shouldn't start ~~earlier~~ [later] is because it can interfere with bedtime. Although later school times could give kids more time to sleep, this may backfire especially for teenagers as they are known for liking to sleep late. The teenagers may think that later school time means later bedtime, ruining the purpose of later school start times. This also gets rid of preparation for the future as adults would have to wake up early Monday to Friday to get to work.

Lastly, schools shouldn't have later start times because it can put students in danger. Have you ever been forced to stay back after school to do activities? Studies show that after school activities last for 1 hour per session, meaning if school started at ten, you would be home by 5:30. In some months, the sun can set at 5 o'clock in June and the latest being 5:30 in April and August. Once you return home from school, there wouldn't be enough time to go play before the sun gets dark. And if you do go out, there will be less people, increasing the risk of criminals or bullies harming you. #3

Schools shouldn't start later because they will interfere with activities, change bedtime and put you in harm's way. Based on the evidence above, this is why schools shouldn't start later.