

Section 1:

#1 "Research shows that children and teenagers need at least eight to ten hours of sleep to stay healthy, focused, and alert. With such an early start, most students have to wake up before their bodies are ready. This lack of sleep can cause serious problems, such as irritability, difficulty focusing, lower grades, and a weaker immune system. We must change the time school starts for the sake of our children!"

Strengths:

- You've effectively used research to support your argument
- Your writing clearly outlines specific consequences of sleep deprivation

Weakness: Lack of specific evidence → While you mention research, you don't provide specific studies or statistics. Phrases like "research shows" would be stronger with actual examples. Adding a specific study or percentage would make your argument more convincing.

Exemplar: *Research from the Sleep Health Foundation shows that 70% of Australian students get less than the recommended sleep hours, and schools that delayed start times saw a 15% improvement in academic performance.*

#2 "We are expected to concentrate, do our best work, and behave responsibly. But how can we do that if we are always tired? It is like trying to learn while our minds are still asleep. Research shows that schools that begin later in the morning often see better attendance, higher test scores, and students who are happier and more focused. If we want our school to have a high standard of achievement, then we must fix up the time school starts."

Strengths:

- Your rhetorical question effectively engages the reader
- You've used a relatable analogy about minds being asleep

Weakness: Undeveloped argument structure → This paragraph begins with personal experience but shifts to research without clear transition. The connection between your experience and the research isn't fully developed. The final sentence uses casual phrasing ("fix up") which weakens your formal argument.

Exemplar: *As students expected to perform at our best, our constant tiredness creates an impossible challenge. Studies from Australian education researchers confirm that schools with later start times report not only improved attendance and test scores but also significantly better student wellbeing and classroom engagement.*

#3 "I believe our school should consider starting at least one hour later. This change would help students feel more rested, healthier, and ready to learn. Sleep is not just nice to have; it is something we truly need. If we are well rested, we can do better in school and enjoy it more. I hope you I convinced you and let you know how much we need a later school starting time and is starting to consider it."

Strengths:

- You've provided a clear, specific solution (one hour later start)
- Your conclusion reinforces the importance of sleep for learning

Weakness: Unclear sentence structure and typos → The closing contains several grammatical errors that distract from your message. Phrases like "I hope you I convinced you" and "is starting to consider it" need revision for clarity. These errors might make the principal take your argument less seriously.

Exemplar: *I strongly urge our school to implement a one-hour later start time. This reasonable adjustment would ensure students arrive more rested, focused, and ready to learn effectively. Sleep isn't merely a luxury—it's essential for our academic success and overall wellbeing. I hope I've convinced you to consider this important change that would benefit our entire school community.*

■ Your persuasive letter shows good understanding of the basic structure needed for a formal letter to the principal. You've identified an important issue that affects many students and made a clear request for a later school start time. To strengthen your writing, focus on adding more specific evidence to support your claims. For example, instead of just saying "research shows," mention actual statistics or studies about sleep and school performance. Also, try to improve how your paragraphs flow together by using better linking words between your ideas. Your introduction grabs attention, but adding a personal example of how early school times affect you specifically would make your argument more powerful. Additionally, check your final paragraph carefully for spelling and grammar mistakes, as these can make your letter seem less professional. Remember to keep your tone respectful but confident when writing to the principal.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

Dear Principal,

Every single day I walk to school seeing hundreds of children sleepy like they didn't get any sleep last night. With school starting so early, children don't get enough sleep. This ~~is can~~ [can] lead to many conditions such as irritation, ~~disability~~ [inability] to focus well, and many more. Children should also

have the right to sleep as much as they want since it keeps their immune system up as well. Changing the time school starts is extremely beneficial for our school and here's why.

#1 Research shows that children and teenagers need at least eight to ten hours of sleep to stay healthy, focused, and alert. With such an early start, most students have to wake up before their bodies are ready. This lack of sleep can cause serious problems, such as irritability, difficulty focusing, lower grades, and a weaker immune system. We must change the time school starts for the sake of our children!

#2 We are expected to concentrate, do our best work, and behave responsibly. But how can we do that if we are always tired? It is like trying to learn while our minds are still asleep. Research shows that schools that begin later in the morning often see better attendance, higher test scores, and students who are happier and more focused. If we want our school to have a high standard of achievement, then we must ~~fix up~~ [adjust] the time school starts.

I believe our school should consider starting at least one hour later. This change would help students feel more rested, healthier, and ready to learn. Sleep is not just nice to have; ~~it~~ [it] is something we truly need. If we are well rested, we can do better in school and enjoy it more.

~~#3 I hope you I convinced you and let you know how much we need a later school starting time and is starting to consider it.~~ [I hope I have convinced you of how much we need a later school starting time and that you will consider implementing this change.]

Yours sincerely,
Shawn Pan