

## English 3 Age of Reason Unit

### School Start Time Group Essay

**50 Points; DUE Friday, 11/8 to Turnitin.com (one submission per group)**

**BACKGROUND:** A California senator named Anthony J. Portantino wrote a bill proposing that all California middle schools start no earlier than 8:00 am, and high schools no earlier than 8:30 am. On Sunday, October 13, 2019, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed this bill into law, mandating that school schedules be reworked to accommodate later starts by July 1, 2022.

According to a New York Times article, exceptions may be made in the case “optional class periods called “zero periods,” which start before the regular school session,” or for rural schools in which transportation to school in the mornings may be an issue (Hauser). *I suggest you read the article (see link below) because it gives a thorough, neutral overview of the topic.*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/14/us/school-sleep-start.html>

**YOUR TASK:** With your group, you are to research the topic fully BEFORE deciding which side to argue - in favor of pushing back school start times, or opposed. Your essay should read as a response to Gov. Newsom’s decision:

- if you are **in favor**, you will present information to show your support and further the argument that this is a helpful change.
- if you are **opposed**, you will present information that explains why this is NOT a helpful change.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- You must have at least FOUR quotes (with in-text citations) from a minimum of TWO different sources
- You must have a Works Cited page at the end with proper MLA citations for each of the sources you use
- The essay should be a minimum of 4 paragraphs (intro, 2 bodies, conclusion)
- The essay should be between 500 and 750 words (2-3 pages, double-spaced)
- You must use persuasive strategies we have discussed

You will type this together with your group in a shared Google Doc. You may choose to type all together, or “divide and conquer” (one person responsible for each paragraph); if you choose the latter, make sure the paragraphs flow well together.

You will submit ONE copy into Turnitin.com by the due date. Elect one person in your group to be responsible for the submission. ***Please ensure all names are on the document!***