

SCHOOL DAY

Performance Standard 3C.H

Each student will write a multi-paragraph persuasive essay on the prompt, “Extending the School Day” accordingly:

- *Focusing the paper:* set purpose of paper through thematic introduction, specific preview, or may be achieved inductively through the paper; maintain position/logic throughout; develop closing (may be restatement of points in the introduction).
- *Supporting and elaborating major points:* support points with detail (some developed with more detail than others--not balanced or even); make development of depth evident; use word choice to enhance specificity.
- *Organizing the paper:* develop clear structure; paragraph major points appropriately; use effective devices (e.g., transitions, pronouns, parallel structure) to demonstrate coherence and cohesion; vary sentence structure to produce cohesion.
- *Using conventions:* demonstrate mastery of sentence construction, basic subject/verb agreement, and basic punctuation and capitalization; use few invented spellings of uncommon words; evidence few major errors in proportion to amount written.
- *Developing an integrated paper:* develop for grade level; maintain clear and purposeful Focus; maintain in-depth, balanced support; identify and develop lines of reasoning throughout the paper.

Procedures

1. *In order to communicate ideas in writing to accomplish a variety of purposes (3C)*, students should experience sufficient learning opportunities to develop the following:
 - Write a narrative account that establishes a context, creates a point of view, and develops a focused, powerful impression.
 - Use appropriate language, details, and format for a specified audience.
 - Develop a multi-paragraph piece of persuasive writing.
 - Write creatively for a specified purpose and audience (e.g., short story, poetry, radio scripts, play, TV commercial).
 - Use available technology (e.g., web pages, presentations, speeches) to design produce, revise, and present compositions and multi-media works.
2. Have students review and discuss the assessment task and how the rubric will be used to evaluate their work.
3. Each student will be familiar with writing a multi-paragraph persuasive essay.
4. Each student will develop an outline for his/her essay (to be submitted with the essay).
5. Each student will develop a multi-paragraph persuasive essay on the following prompt: “Your principal has decided to extend the school day for one hour. Since the Board of Education has increased the number of subjects students must study, the principal feels that the only way the students can learn all they need to know is to make the day longer, and write an essay to the principal to persuade him/her not to extend the school day
6. Evaluate each student’s performance using the State Writing rubric. Add each student’s scores to determine the performance level.

Examples of Student Work follow

Resources

- Writing materials
- Copies of the writing
- State Writing Rubric

Time Requirement

- One class period

ASSESSMENT 3C.H

School Day

Student Writing Prompt

Your principal has decided to extend the school day for one hour. Since the Board of Education has increased the number of subjects students must study, the principal feels that the only way the students can learn all they need to know is to make the day longer, and write an essay to the principal to persuade him/her not to extend the school day.

SCHOOL DAY

NAME _____ DATE _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds 28 - 32 points
<input type="checkbox"/> Meets 21 - 27 points | <input type="checkbox"/> Approaches 14 - 20 points
<input type="checkbox"/> Begins 6 - 13 points |
|--|---|

NOTE: Use the state’s writing rubric in appendix A for this assessment.

	Focus	Support	Organization	Conventions	Integration
6					
5					
4					
3					
2					
1					

MAJOR AND MINOR ERRORS

SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION

Major Errors

- Incorrect subject/verb agreement
- Run-on
- Fragment
- Omitted words that interfere
- Incorrect usage
- Incorrect use of common words
- Incorrect pronoun reference
- Confusing tense shifts

Minor Errors

- Incorrect use of connectors between clauses
- Omitted words that do not interfere

USAGE

Minor Errors

- Commas in a series, for opening or clauses
- Awkward or odd use of words/phrases, but meaning still clear
- Homonyms (its/it’s, there/their/they’re, to/two/too)

SPELLING

Major Errors

- Misspelled common words (same misspelled word considered once)

Minor Errors

- Inventive spellings for unusual or less frequently used words

PARAGRAPH FORMAT

Major Errors

- Using titles to delineate paragraphs
- Numbering paragraphs

Minor Errors

- Inconsistent separation of paragraphs

PUNCTUATION/ CAPITALIZATION

Major Errors

- Omission of initial caps
- Common proper nouns
- Missing/incorrect end punctuation
- Missing or misplaced apostrophes

Minor Errors

- Periods for abbreviations

The esteemed principal of our school is considering adding an extra hour on to our normal school day. Even though education generally results in increased knowledge and a steady growth of moral maturity, I do not believe adding an extra hour to our school day would be helpful. Stress would become a larger problem if this proposal was accepted. Student and parents' schedules may become more difficult to manage. The expense that would be required would also be more difficult to compensate. I do not believe that a longer school day would have a positive effect.

Stress, as you probably know, is obviously not a good thing. A longer school day and extra classes would lead to more homework. More homework would mean more stress. Students would have less time to do their homework after school if the school day was made longer. A longer school day may lead the students to be corrupted by stress.

Most people have routine schedules. Adding an extra hour to the school day would change many people's schedules. Leisure time would be decreased in the case of an additional hour. In the winter, by the time some students get home, it may be dark. Some students have after school jobs. An additional hour would make it very difficult to maintain a job or do required chores. If the school day were one hour longer, parents' schedules would be effected too. They may not be able to pick up their children after school or practice if the change was made. Managing time would become more difficult if the length of the school day was increased.

Education comes with a fee, so of course, more education means a larger expense. If an extra class was added, students would need to purchase yet another book. The school would also have to purchase the books and pay the teachers more. As I said before, some

students hold after school jobs. They may not be able to make money if the school day is longer.

A longer school day would be a lost cause in my opinion. Anxiety and stress would be increased with the additional hour. Time and schedules would also be effected in this case. The expense would be greater if the school day were increased. A longer school day would not have a positive effect on the people involved.

EXTENDING THE SCHOOL DAY

I strongly feel that the school day should not be increased by one hour. I believe the increase would cause a lot of problems for the parents, students, and the budget. I am very concerned about how losing an hour in the evening will affect the delicate balance of time management for everyone involved, while being equally worried about the increased stress that the extended school day will result in.

All parents, students, and teachers live within a tight schedule during the school week. By taking away one of the few hours available in the evening, you would be upsetting the delicate balance established between home and school. Our parents have already set their schedules so that they are available after school to transport us and help us with our homework, while also taking care of dinner and chores. Then on top of that, they have to work those things around each sport so that they are able to transport us to and from practice and games. All of this has to be done in five hours since that is all we have now from the time we get home till we go to bed. It will be impossible to get everything done in four hours especially in the winter when the days are short. It would be dark by the time we got home. How would we do our chores?

Also I would like for you to consider the increased level of stress this will cause. Losing an hour in the evening will tear up our schedule and keep us from meeting all of our responsibilities unless we give up an hour of sleep, which will cause us to doze off in class. We already know that will cause our grades to fall.

That alone will increase our stress level because the bad grades will cause fights at home. School is very stressful for many students. The way that we blow off that stress is to spend time with our friends and family. If you take an hour away each night, we won't be able to do that. Then all of that stress can lead to drugs, drinking, and dropping out of school not to mention the increased level of stress on our parents. Losing an hour will completely destroy the schedule they have worked so hard to develop, and that stress can lead to fighting at home, drugs, drinking, and maybe even divorce.

Where are we going to get the money to pay for this extra hour? Our classrooms are already crowded, and we do not have enough teachers for each class now, which prevents us from getting the individual help that we need. When we complain about the lack of teachers and room, we are told that there is not enough money. The excuse always seems to be that the budget is already stretched too far. So where do you propose to get the money for this? It is not going to be cheap to pay each teacher for an extra hour each day. If our budget is truly as tight as we are lead to believe, then there is no funding for this. If there is no funding, what are we going to use to pay for it? If there is extra money, I have some suggestions for how it could be spent. However, if the budget is as tight as we are lead to believe, I would like to know up front what we have to sacrifice to pay for this problematic hour.

I think that if you really consider all of these things. You will see that increasing the school day by an hour will cause more problems that it will fix. When you consider the time issues combined with the increased stress level, it is

easy to see how bad losing that one hour would be. This would be a bad thing for parents, students, and the budget. While our education is important, it is equally important for us to have time with our family and friends. It is the balance between work and home that allows us to grow and develop, and losing that one hour would destroy that balance. So I am asking you to please reconsider your decision to extend the school day.