

School Week Shift Answer Key

Model Response (Sample Answer):

The article presents a balanced argument by including both benefits and drawbacks of a four-day school week. The supporters' points about saving money and reducing student stress are strong because they are backed with examples of cost savings and student feedback. However, the article could be stronger if it included more concrete data, such as test scores or attendance rates, to show whether academics are truly affected. The critics' concerns about childcare and academic progress are convincing, but they would also benefit from evidence beyond opinion. Overall, the argument is fair but lacks enough detailed evidence to be fully persuasive.

Teacher's Notes:

- Students should not simply say "the article is good" or "the article is bad." They need to evaluate **specific claims** and **explain why** they are strong or weak.
- Accept varied responses as long as they:
 1. Identify at least one strong point with reasoning.
 2. Identify at least one weak or missing element.
 3. Comment on overall persuasiveness.
- Extension idea: Have students write a follow-up paragraph taking a clear stance *for or against* four-day weeks, supported with reasoning.