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ENGL 093

15 April 2013

Journal #8: Pre-writing for Arguing Essay

I had heard that Daylight Saving Time (DST) is not good for school children because when a school bus picks students up in the morning, it is before sunrise time and still dark on the street for part of the school year. On the day before DST is adopted in March, sunrise time is approximately 7 A.M. (Eastern time) in Fort Wayne. The day DST begins, sunrise time moves forward to 8 A.M. The School bus picks up children near my house at around 7:30 A.M., so it is dark when children get on the bus in March. The same situation occurs in September and October at the end of DST. This can lead to traffic accidents, assaults, and abductions involving school children. The most recent case was on March 11, 2013, a Columbus, Indiana student was struck by a school bus in the morning before sunrise. It was just the next day after DST was started.

To prevent school children from those kinds of accidents due to waiting for a school bus and walking in the darkness to go to school, Indiana should not implement DST. According to Fort Wayne Community School (FWCS), students attend school 180 days throughout the year (2013 to 2014). Assuming the time the school bus comes to pick up students is 7:30

A.M., comparison of the school attendance days and sunrise time in Fort Wayne indicates school children have to deal with commuting in the dark. 96 days of the school year have sunrise times after 7:30, which is 53% of school year. This is including 43 days of DST that have sunrise times after 7:30. If Indiana does not implement DST, the number of days with sunrise times before 7:30 in Fort Wayne increases 43 days. In other words, getting rid of DST provides 43 days more commuting in daylight. This can reduce children's danger due to darkness when they go to school.

The person who gets benefit out of DST may disagree with my proposal. They may think the causes of accidents are not related to the morning darkness. They might suggest to change the school bus schedules to after sunrise during DST. They may think that school children should wear reflective clothing in order to prevent accidents. Someone might suggest Indiana should be in Central time, then automatically Indiana time is one hour behind even during DST.

You have a good description here of one side effect of DST – the problem. You'll want to consider how DST benefits other groups & whether or not those benefits outweigh the possible drawbacks.