

Name _____

Date _____

Getting Off the Fence

Saying a person is "on the fence" means that he is undecided or has not chosen a side on a certain issue. The owls below have definitely chosen sides and are "getting off the fence."

Read each paragraph. In the space below the paragraph, write each owl's opinion about whether students should have a longer school year. Then list the reasons that each owl uses to support its opinion.



Owen's Opinion

Most children only go to school for about 180 days, but I think they should go longer. There are several reasons for my opinion. First, I think a longer school year would give students more time to improve skills with which they struggle. Second, it would give students a chance to become more excellent at skills they already do well. Third, students would become used to "working" all year long, which is what they will do once they become adults. Finally, parents who have to work would appreciate knowing that their children are safe. I absolutely think there should be a longer school year. I hope it starts soon!

Opinion: _____

Supporting details: _____



Orietta's Opinion

I think that making the school year longer is a bad idea. Many children feel a lot of stress. After working hard in school, students need a vacation. Teachers need a break too. Extending the year would also be more expensive. Paying teachers, buying supplies, and taking care of school buildings costs money. Finally, if the school year were longer, there would be no time for kids to go to camp or take vacations with their parents. There are just a few of the reasons why there should not be a longer school year.

Opinion: _____

Supporting details: _____

Bonus Box: Do you favor a longer school year? How about your friends? Survey at least ten people. Then make a graph to represent the opinions you gather.