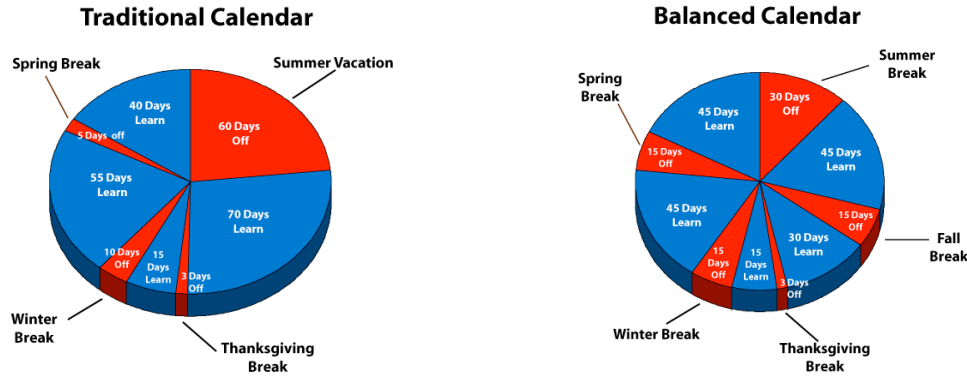


## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Argument Sample

**Currently, the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) runs on a traditional ten-month calendar. Should the HCPSS change to a year-round school calendar?**



Although many argue that the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) should keep its ten-month traditional calendar because it gives students and staff a much-needed break, the advantages to the year-round calendar make it a better choice for our students, staff, and parents. The school system should adopt a year-round calendar.

The year-round calendar would give teachers and students an opportunity to refresh themselves throughout the year. Even a lot of students admit that after eleven weeks, summer can get boring. Shorter, but more frequent breaks would be more productive and more meaningful for students.

Yet another reason that a year-round calendar makes more sense for students, staff, and families is that it allows parents to choose different types of vacations. The current calendar only allows families to schedule significant vacations over the summer. Some families would prefer to travel during the fall, the winter, or the spring. A year-round calendar would open the possibility for different types of vacations.

Most importantly, the year-round calendar would make it easier for students to maintain their skills more so than the traditional ten-month calendar. Research shows that many students lose some of their skills over the long summer vacation. Short breaks would make it less likely that students would forget what they learned.

The HCPSS should adopt a year-round calendar. Not only would this improve teaching and learning, but it would also give families an opportunity to travel during different parts of the school year. Teachers and students would come back from breaks refreshed and ready to work. Students would not have lost skills over the long summer break and families would be happy that they could enjoy vacations during all four seasons.

## Annotations

The writer of this piece:

- **States a claim and acknowledges alternate or opposing claims.**
  - *Although many argue that the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) should keep its ten-month traditional calendar because it gives students and staff a much-needed break, the advantages to the year-round calendar make it a better choice for our students, staff, and parents. The school system should adopt a year-round calendar.*
  
- **Presents relevant facts and evidence to support the claim.**
  - *Even a lot of students admit that after eleven weeks, summer can get boring.*
  - *Yet another reason that a year-round calendar makes more sense for students, staff, and families is that it allows parents to choose different types of vacations.*
  - *Research shows that many students lose some of their skills over the long summer vacation.*
  
- **Develops argument, claims, and evidence logically with cohesive organization.**
  - *The year-round calendar would give teachers and students an opportunity to refresh themselves throughout the year.*
  - *Teachers and students would come back from breaks refreshed and ready to work.*
  
- **Provides a conclusion that clearly follows from and supports the author's claim.**
  - *The HCPSS should adopt a year-round calendar. Not only would this improve teaching and learning, but it would also give families an opportunity to travel during different parts of the school year.*
  
- **Uses words, phrases and clauses to clarify the relationship and create cohesion between the claim, reasons and evidence.**
  - *Yet another reason that a year-round calendar makes more sense for students, staff, and families is that it allows parents to choose different types of vacations.*
  - *A year-round calendar would open the possibility for different types of vacations.*
  
- **Demonstrates good command of the conventions of standard written English with minimal errors.**