Should the School Year Be Longer?

Raider Academy

Recently, there has been a push to increase the length of the U.S. school year. Many people believe it is a way to keep up with other countries whose students score better on standardized tests. For this assignment you will read the articles addressing this issue and then answer a few questions to help you form an opinion/develop an argument about this issue. I want to know your opinion on the matter.

Before reading the articles, answer the following question:

1. Do you think the school year is too long, too short, or the right length right now? Explain your answer. (2-3 sentences)

The Articles:

Extremely short article introducing the topic:

http://www.foxnews.com/us/2013/01/13/balancing-us-competitiveness-coveted-summer-vacation-at-heart-longer-school/

Longer article to give you a couple sides to the debate:

http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/longer-school-year-hurt-us-students-18201500

I would like you to answer the following questions **INDIVIDUALLY.** When everyone is done we will have a chance to share opinions and talk about the answers as a group. Write in complete sentences.

2. Name some reasons people use to support the idea for a longer school year. You should be able to come up with three reasons. You can use ideas from the article and come up with your own if you would like. (2-4 sentences)
3. Name some reasons people use to argue for keeping the school year the same. You can find reasons in the article and add your own if you would like. (2-4 sentences)
4. Do you think it is important for students in the U.S. to have similar or better scores on standardized tests as students in other countries? Why or why not? (2-3 sentences)
5. After reading the article, did you change your original opinion? Why or why not? (3-5 sentences)

When finished, keep your answers out and re-check them to make sure you gave a good effort in responding to the questions. After checking your work, please remain quiet so others can finish as well.