Evidence or Verdict

Spot claims that can be checked and conclusions supported by reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.8 "Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FACT

A fact can be checked in a reliable source, record, or object. It states what happened or what exists without deciding whether it was good, important, or best.

A 1912 newspaper printed the election results.

REASONED JUDGMENT

A reasoned judgment gives a conclusion supported by a reason or evidence. It often decides whether something was wise, fair, effective, or important.

Because the evacuation plan moved families away from the flood zone quickly, it was an effective response.

1 SORT

8 items

For each statement, circle FACT or JUDGMENT, then choose two items and explain what makes each one a fact or a reasoned judgment.

1.	The city council's report lists 42,000 residents in 1920.	FACT JUDGMENT
2.	Since the law ended a harmful practice, it was a major step toward fairness.	FACT JUDGMENT
3.	The photograph shows workers building the dam.	FACT JUDGMENT
4.	Because the map leaves out rural roads, it is not the best guide for a cross-country trip.	FACT JUDGMENT
5.	The diary was written in 1864.	FACT JUDGMENT
6.	The speech uses three examples from the survey.	FACT JUDGMENT
7.	Because the policy lowered pollution without raising fares, it was a sensible choice.	FACT JUDGMENT
8.	The museum displays a helmet found at the site.	FACT JUDGMENT

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new FACT and one new JUDGMENT. Make your judgment include a reason.

FACT _____

JUDGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Write one reasoned judgment about a decision, then support it with two facts.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence or Verdict

GRADE 7 · RH.6-8.8

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The city council's report lists 42,000 residents in 1920.	**FACT**	This is a checkable claim from a record.
2	Since the law ended a harmful practice, it was a major step toward fairness.	**JUDGMENT**	This concludes that the law was important and fair, using a reason.
3	The photograph shows workers building the dam.	**FACT**	This is a checkable observation about a source.
4	Because the map leaves out rural roads, it is not the best guide for a cross-country trip.	**JUDGMENT**	This evaluates the map using a stated reason.
5	The diary was written in 1864.	**FACT**	The date can be checked on the diary or in a reliable record.
6	The speech uses three examples from the survey.	**FACT**	The number of examples can be checked in the speech.
7	Because the policy lowered pollution without raising fares, it was a sensible choice.	**JUDGMENT**	This judges the policy as sensible and gives supporting reasons.
8	The museum displays a helmet found at the site.	**FACT**	This is a checkable claim about the museum display and artifact.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FACT**: A ship's log recorded rain on October 6.
- **JUDGMENT**: Because the new trail signs prevented hikers from getting lost, the park made a wise improvement.

Challenge: The school board should keep the archive open on Saturdays because visitor logs show that 64 people used it on each of the past two Saturdays, and a questionnaire found that 31 local residents asked for weekend access.

Accept FACT when the statement can be verified without evaluating it. Accept JUDGMENT when the statement reaches a conclusion about quality, fairness, importance, or effectiveness and supports that conclusion with a reason.