

# Claims Under Pressure

Trace claims, test reasoning, and judge the evidence.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.8** "Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each claim, circle each piece of evidence, and write S beside evidence that strongly supports a claim or W beside evidence that is weak or incomplete.

### A Filling Station Proposal

- ① Our school should add a water-bottle filling station near the gym. During one Tuesday, Green Team members counted 86 plastic drink bottles in recycling bins outside the gym. They also surveyed 40 students after PE; 31 said they would refill a bottle if a station were nearby. A filling station could give students an easy option during busy class changes. The team argues that fewer students would buy single-use bottles, so the school would create less plastic waste.
- ② Some evidence supports the team's claim. The bin count is relevant because it shows that plastic bottles are used near the gym, and the survey connects a nearby station to students' choices. However, one Tuesday may not represent every day, season, or school event. The survey group was small and included only students leaving PE. The team does not know how many of those 31 students already bring reusable bottles, have access to water elsewhere, or would actually stop buying drinks. Those missing details weaken the prediction about waste.
- ③ The team says the station will pay for itself within a year. It notes that a district installed a station and reported saving \$600 on bottled water for meetings. This example is not strong support for the claim. Our school may buy a different amount of meeting water, and the proposal gives no station price, installation cost, filter cost, or estimate of savings here. The district example is relevant to possible savings, but it is not sufficient to prove a one-year payoff. The waste-reduction claim is more reasonable, but it also needs broader evidence.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** What does the Green Team recommend, and what are its two main claims about the filling station?

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**2** Which two pieces of evidence support the waste-reduction claim? Explain why one of them is relevant.

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**3** Why is the survey not sufficient by itself to prove that the school will create less plastic waste?

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**4** Evaluate the evidence for the claim that the station will pay for itself within a year. What makes the evidence relevant but insufficient?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Choose one claim from the passage. Write three sentences that state the claim, explain whether its evidence is sufficient, and name one additional piece of evidence that would make the argument stronger.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each claim, circle each piece of evidence, and write S beside evidence that strongly supports a claim or W beside evidence that is weak or incomplete. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                                                   | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What does the Green Team recommend, and what are its two main claims about the filling station?                                            | <b>The team recommends adding a filling station near the gym. It claims the station will reduce plastic waste and pay for itself within a year.</b>                                                                                              |
| 2 | Which two pieces of evidence support the waste-reduction claim? Explain why one of them is relevant.                                       | <b>The team counted 86 plastic bottles near the gym and surveyed 40 students, 31 of whom said they would refill a bottle. The bottle count is relevant because it shows that plastic bottles are used near the gym.</b>                          |
| 3 | Why is the survey not sufficient by itself to prove that the school will create less plastic waste?                                        | <b>It included only 40 students leaving PE, so it may not represent the whole school. The team also does not know whether students already have reusable bottles, can get water elsewhere, or would stop buying drinks.</b>                      |
| 4 | Evaluate the evidence for the claim that the station will pay for itself within a year. What makes the evidence relevant but insufficient? | <b>The other district's \$600 savings is relevant because it suggests a station can save money. It is insufficient because our school's meeting-water purchases may differ, and the proposal gives no local costs or local savings estimate.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

The claim that the station will pay for itself within a year is not supported well enough. The district's \$600 meeting-water savings suggests that a station might save money, but our school's costs and purchasing habits could differ. A complete proposal should include the station's price, filter expenses, and an estimate of local savings.

Accept equivalent wording that accurately identifies claims, evidence, relevance, and limits in the evidence. For the open response, accept either passage claim if the student explains sufficiency accurately and suggests relevant additional evidence.