

Speaker Sleuth Cards

Trace claims, proof, and persuasive choices.

HIGH SCHOOL • SL.11-12.3

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.3 "Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Judge the speaker's ideas, not the person.

2 Play a card only after you say its starter aloud.

3 Build on or question a classmate's analysis.

4 Keep your role focus during the round.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Choose a topic card and read the speaker's words aloud.
2. Take one role card each.
3. Use copied move-card decks to deal four cards to each player.
4. Take turns using a starter that fits, then play that card in the center.
5. End when all cards are played, then check the reflection.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I identified the speaker's point of view and a premise.

☐ I evaluated evidence instead of only naming it.

☐ I explained a link between the speaker's ideas.

☐ I analyzed word choice, emphasis, or tone.


TOPIC CARDS · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Phone-Free Lunch A student speaker says, "Lunch should be phone-free. Talking face-to-face builds friendships. Last week, I saw three friends sit silently while scrolling. Put the screens away and notice the people beside you." How convincing is the speaker's stance? Evaluate the premise, evidence, links, and rhetoric.	Later School Start A student speaker says, "School should start 30 minutes later. Tired students cannot focus. In our homeroom survey, 18 of 24 students said they feel sleepy first period. Stop asking exhausted brains to learn." How convincing is the speaker's stance? Evaluate the premise, evidence, links, and rhetoric.	Senior Service Hours A student speaker says, "Every senior should complete 20 service hours. Helping at a food pantry taught me responsibility. Our town has needs, and students have energy. Do not graduate without giving back." How convincing is the speaker's stance? Evaluate the premise, evidence, links, and rhetoric.

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Claim Scout Track the speaker's point of view and state it clearly.	Logic Linker Watch for premises and explain how the speaker connects ideas.	Evidence Judge Identify evidence and decide how well it supports the claim.	Tone Tracker Notice word choice, emphasis, and the tone they create.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD STANCE CHECK "The speaker's point of view is ____."	MOVE CARD STANCE CHECK "The speaker seems to believe ____ because ____."	MOVE CARD EVIDENCE CHECK "The speaker's evidence is ____, and its strength depends on ____."	MOVE CARD EVIDENCE CHECK "One piece of evidence is ____; it does or does not support the claim because ____."
MOVE CARD LOGIC LINK "The speaker connects ____ to ____, but that link is ____."	MOVE CARD RHETORIC SCAN "By saying ____ and stressing ____, the speaker creates a ____ tone."		

Print one card sheet per team. Cards last longer on thick paper.

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print enough copies of the six move cards so each player receives four, then rotate who begins each round. If participation is uneven, require players to wait until every group member has played one card before anyone plays a second card.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Maya	The speaker's point of view is that lunch should be phone-free.
Jordan	One premise behind that view is that face-to-face talking builds friendships.
Ari	The speaker's evidence is one observation of three friends, and its strength depends on whether that example represents more students.
Maya	The speaker connects phone-free lunches to stronger friendships, but that link is an assumption because students might still not talk.
Jordan	By saying "notice the people beside you" and stressing "put the screens away," the speaker creates an urging tone.

LISTEN FOR

- Clear distinction between claim, premise, and evidence
- Specific judgment of evidence quality or limits
- Explanation of whether ideas logically connect
- Analysis of quoted words, emphasis, and tone

There are no right answers to the topic cards. Score the moves students make, not their opinions.