

Position Check

Tell a main claim from an opposing counterclaim.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.1a "Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

MAIN CLAIM

A claim states the writer's main position on an issue. It is a point the writer will support with reasons and evidence.

The state museum should offer free admission on the first Sunday of each month.

COUNTERCLAIM

A counterclaim presents a different position that challenges the claim. It shows what an informed opponent might argue.

Some museum staff contend that free-admission days would create crowded galleries.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For Part 1, circle CLAIM or COUNTER for each statement; for Part 2, choose two items and explain which words or ideas helped you sort them.

- | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | High schools should begin later because teenagers need more sleep. | <input type="button" value="CLAIM"/> | <input type="button" value="COUNTER"/> |
| 2. | The city should provide free bus passes for all high school students. | <input type="button" value="CLAIM"/> | <input type="button" value="COUNTER"/> |
| 3. | Opponents argue that free student bus passes would require higher local taxes. | <input type="button" value="CLAIM"/> | <input type="button" value="COUNTER"/> |
| 4. | Every senior should complete a financial literacy course before graduation. | <input type="button" value="CLAIM"/> | <input type="button" value="COUNTER"/> |
| 5. | Critics say a required financial literacy course could replace valuable elective classes. | <input type="button" value="CLAIM"/> | <input type="button" value="COUNTER"/> |
| 6. | Some residents contend that public gardens cost cities more than expected. | <input type="button" value="CLAIM"/> | <input type="button" value="COUNTER"/> |
| 7. | Students should be allowed to revise one major essay each semester. | <input type="button" value="CLAIM"/> | <input type="button" value="COUNTER"/> |
| 8. | School boards should publish meeting agendas at least one week in advance. | <input type="button" value="CLAIM"/> | <input type="button" value="COUNTER"/> |

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

Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one original claim and one original counterclaim about a school or community issue.

CLAIM

COUNTER

CHALLENGE

Write a three-sentence mini-argument: state a claim, present a counterclaim, and answer the counterclaim with a reason.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	High schools should begin later because teenagers need more sleep.	CLAIM	States a main position supporting later start times.
2	The city should provide free bus passes for all high school students.	CLAIM	States a main position supporting free student transit.
3	Opponents argue that free student bus passes would require higher local taxes.	COUNTER	Presents an opposing position against free bus passes.
4	Every senior should complete a financial literacy course before graduation.	CLAIM	States a main position supporting a graduation requirement.
5	Critics say a required financial literacy course could replace valuable elective classes.	COUNTER	Presents an opposing position against the required course.
6	Some residents contend that public gardens cost cities more than expected.	COUNTER	Presents an opposing position against public gardens.
7	Students should be allowed to revise one major essay each semester.	CLAIM	States a main position supporting essay revision.
8	School boards should publish meeting agendas at least one week in advance.	CLAIM	States a main position supporting earlier publication of agendas.

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)

- **CLAIM:** The school should create a quiet study room during lunch.
- **COUNTER:** Some students argue that a quiet study room would take space from clubs.

Challenge: Our school should install filtered water stations in each hallway. Some administrators may argue that installation costs are too high. However, the stations would reduce plastic-bottle waste and save money on disposable water over time.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are CLAIM; items 3, 5, and 6 are COUNTER. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a main position or an opposing viewpoint, using wording from the selected statements.