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.	CLAIM COUNTER
2.	The city should provide free bus passes for all high school students.	CLAIM COUNTER
3.	Opponents argue that free student bus passes would require higher local taxes.	CLAIM COUNTER
4.	Every senior should complete a financial literacy course before graduation.	CLAIM COUNTER
5.	Critics say a required financial literacy course could replace valuable elective classes.	CLAIM COUNTER
6.	Some residents contend that public gardens cost cities more than expected.	CLAIM COUNTER
7.	Students should be allowed to revise one major essay each semester.	CLAIM COUNTER
8.	School boards should publish meeting agendas at least one week in advance.	CLAIM 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

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.

ANSWER KEY # Position Check

HIGH SCHOOL · W.11-12.1a

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.