Claim Clash

Argument focus: The city should build protected bike lanes on major streets.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1a "Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SUPPORTING CLAIM

A supporting claim agrees with the writer's position. It gives a reason the position makes sense.

An outdoor garden should be added behind the library because students could observe insects and plants.

COUNTERCLAIM

A counterclaim presents a different or opposing view. It gives the writer an idea to acknowledge and answer.

Garden space might be better used for outdoor reading tables.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle SUPPORTS or COUNTER for each statement; for Part 2, choose two numbered statements and explain in 1-2 sentences each why each supports or counters the position.

1.	The city should create protected bike lanes on major streets.	SUPPORTS COUNTER
2.	Protected bike lanes would give cyclists space separated from traffic.	SUPPORTS COUNTER
3.	Building bike lanes could remove parking spaces that nearby stores use.	SUPPORTS COUNTER
4.	More people might ride bikes if they felt safer on busy roads.	SUPPORTS COUNTER
5.	Road space should be kept for buses and cars instead.	SUPPORTS COUNTER
6.	Protected lanes would cost too much for the city's transportation budget.	SUPPORTS COUNTER
7.	Fewer conflicts between cars and bicycles could make travel safer for everyone.	SUPPORTS COUNTER
8.	Delivery drivers could have less room to stop near businesses.	SUPPORTS 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 new supporting claim and one new counterclaim about protected bike lanes.

SUPPORTS _____

COUNTER _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-sentence response that states the city's position, acknowledges one counterclaim, and answers it with a reason or evidence.

Claim Clash

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The city should create protected bike lanes on major streets.	**SUPPORTS**	This directly states the writer's position.
2	Protected bike lanes would give cyclists space separated from traffic.	**SUPPORTS**	This gives a safety reason for the proposed lanes.
3	Building bike lanes could remove parking spaces that nearby stores use.	**COUNTER**	This presents a possible drawback of the proposal.
4	More people might ride bikes if they felt safer on busy roads.	**SUPPORTS**	This gives a benefit of protected lanes.
5	Road space should be kept for buses and cars instead.	**COUNTER**	This offers an opposing use for the road space.
6	Protected lanes would cost too much for the city's transportation budget.	**COUNTER**	This argues against the proposal because of cost.
7	Fewer conflicts between cars and bicycles could make travel safer for everyone.	**SUPPORTS**	This gives another safety benefit of the proposal.
8	Delivery drivers could have less room to stop near businesses.	**COUNTER**	This presents a possible problem caused by the proposal.

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)

- **SUPPORTS**: Protected bike lanes can help people travel to school or work without driving.
- **COUNTER**: Construction could disrupt traffic while streets are redesigned.

Challenge: The city should build protected bike lanes on major streets because separated space can reduce conflicts between bicycles and cars. Although some residents worry about losing parking, the city can preserve loading zones where businesses need them.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Part 1 answers are SUPPORTS, SUPPORTS, COUNTER, SUPPORTS, COUNTER, COUNTER, SUPPORTS, COUNTER. In Part 2, students should identify whether each selected statement agrees with the stated position or presents a reasonable opposing concern.