Custom or Conviction?

Sort everyday customs from strong moral expectations.

S.2.6 "Explain the relationship between norms and values; explain how norms develop and change in a society; distinguish between folkways, mores, and taboos."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FOLKWAYS

Folkways are everyday customs about what people usually do. Breaking one may seem odd or impolite, but it does not seriously violate a community's core values.

Clapping at a concert before the song ends.

MORES

Mores are norms tied to a community's strong moral values. Breaking one is seen as seriously wrong, not just unusual.

Taking credit for a teammate's work.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle FOLKWAYS or MORES for each item, then choose two items, one from each category, and explain how you knew.

1.	At a café where customers usually greet the cashier, a customer skips the greeting.	FOLKWAYS MORES
2.	At a picnic where guests usually bring homemade food, a guest brings packaged snacks.	FOLKWAYS MORES
3.	A student shares a friend's medical news after promising to keep it private.	FOLKWAYS MORES
4.	At an event where guests usually wear dark colors, a guest wears a bright yellow jacket.	FOLKWAYS MORES
5.	A store owner refuses to serve a customer because of the customer's religion.	FOLKWAYS MORES
6.	A person keeps donated supplies meant for families affected by a flood.	FOLKWAYS MORES
7.	At a meal where everyone usually waits for the host to sit down, a guest starts eating early.	FOLKWAYS MORES
8.	At a club meeting where phones are usually silent, a guest's phone rings once.	FOLKWAYS MORES

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 example of a folkway and one new example of a more.

FOLKWAYS _____

MORES _____

CHALLENGE

Choose the folkway you wrote and explain how it could change over time as people's values or habits change.

Custom or Conviction?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	At a café where customers usually greet the cashier, a customer skips the greeting.	**FOLKWAYS**	Skipping a customary greeting may seem impolite, but it does not violate a core moral value.
2	At a picnic where guests usually bring homemade food, a guest brings packaged snacks.	**FOLKWAYS**	The guest breaks a food custom, not a strong moral expectation.
3	A student shares a friend's medical news after promising to keep it private.	**MORES**	Breaking the promise violates strong expectations about trust and privacy.
4	At an event where guests usually wear dark colors, a guest wears a bright yellow jacket.	**FOLKWAYS**	The guest breaks a dress custom without violating a core moral value.
5	A store owner refuses to serve a customer because of the customer's religion.	**MORES**	Religious discrimination violates a strong expectation of fair treatment.
6	A person keeps donated supplies meant for families affected by a flood.	**MORES**	Taking aid from people who need it violates strong expectations about honesty and care for others.
7	At a meal where everyone usually waits for the host to sit down, a guest starts eating early.	**FOLKWAYS**	The guest breaks a table custom, which may seem impolite but is not a serious moral violation.
8	At a club meeting where phones are usually silent, a guest's phone rings once.	**FOLKWAYS**	The ringing phone breaks a meeting custom, not a strong moral expectation.

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)

- **FOLKWAYS**: In my neighborhood, guests usually take off their shoes when entering a home.
- **MORES**: A coach knowingly puts a player in danger to win a game.

Challenge: If more neighbors began valuing convenience during quick visits, keeping shoes on indoors might become common. The expectation to remove shoes could fade.

For Part 2, look for a contrast between an everyday custom and a strong moral value. For example, item 2 breaks a food custom, while item 5 violates the value of fair treatment.