Backed or Bare?

Sort claims by the support they give.

RI.6.8 "Identify and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from unsupported claims."

NAME _____ DATE _____

BACKED CLAIM

A backed claim gives a relevant reason and specific evidence that helps support it.

The town should plant shade trees near the bus stop because people wait there in direct sun. At noon, a thermometer read 6 degrees cooler under a nearby tree.

BARE CLAIM

A bare claim does not give a relevant reason and specific evidence. It may sound believable, but the text does not back it up.

Every museum should stay open until midnight.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the category for each numbered item, then choose two items for Part 2 and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	Our school should add a second water fountain because students wait too long. On Monday, 12 students waited more than five minutes for water.	BACKED BARE
2.	The cafeteria should offer sliced fruit because many students want it. In a lunch survey, 38 of 50 students chose fruit.	BACKED BARE
3.	The gym needs a new scoreboard.	BACKED BARE
4.	The reading room should stay open longer because students use it after classes. Last Thursday, 19 students were still there at closing time.	BACKED BARE
5.	Biking is the best way to get around town.	BACKED BARE
6.	All movie tickets should cost less.	BACKED BARE
7.	Our class should switch to refillable markers because we throw away too many empty ones. Last month, we discarded 24 empty markers.	BACKED BARE
8.	The park needs more benches because visitors cannot always find a seat. On Saturday, 11 visitors sat on the ground during a busy hour.	BACKED BARE

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 backed claim with a relevant reason and specific evidence, then write one new bare claim.

BACKED _____

BARE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-sentence mini-argument with a claim and a fact that does not support it, then explain why the claim is bare.

ANSWER KEY # Backed or Bare?

GRADE 6 · RI.6.8

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Our school should add a second water fountain because students wait too long. On Monday, 12 students waited more than five minutes for water.	**BACKED**	The wait is a relevant reason, and the Monday count gives specific evidence.
2	The cafeteria should offer sliced fruit because many students want it. In a lunch survey, 38 of 50 students chose fruit.	**BACKED**	Student demand is a relevant reason, supported by a survey result.
3	The gym needs a new scoreboard.	**BARE**	The claim gives no reason or evidence.
4	The reading room should stay open longer because students use it after classes. Last Thursday, 19 students were still there at closing time.	**BACKED**	After-class use is a relevant reason, supported by a specific count.
5	Biking is the best way to get around town.	**BARE**	The claim gives no reason or evidence.
6	All movie tickets should cost less.	**BARE**	The claim gives no reason or evidence.
7	Our class should switch to refillable markers because we throw away too many empty ones. Last month, we discarded 24 empty markers.	**BACKED**	Reducing discarded markers is a relevant reason, supported by a specific count.
8	The park needs more benches because visitors cannot always find a seat. On Saturday, 11 visitors sat on the ground during a busy hour.	**BACKED**	The lack of seats is a relevant reason, supported by a specific observation.

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)

- **BACKED**: The art room should get more paintbrushes because students must share them. On Tuesday, six students waited for a brush.
- **BARE**: All playgrounds need taller slides.

Challenge: The aquarium should buy a bigger tank. Its gift shop sells blue pencils. This claim is bare because pencil sales do not show why the tank should be bigger.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a relevant reason and specific evidence in a backed claim, or note that a bare claim lacks them. In the challenge, the added fact must be unrelated to the claim.