

Claim Evidence Check

Decide whether each claim is backed by relevant evidence.

6R8 "Trace and evaluate the development of an argument and specific claims in texts, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and relevant evidence from claims that are not. (RI&RL)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

CLAIM WITH SUPPORT

A BACKED claim has a reason plus facts, examples, or data that connect to the claim.

Claim: The science club should meet on Fridays. A survey of 30 club members found that 24 can attend then.

CLAIM WITHOUT SUPPORT

An UNBACKED claim may give an opinion or a reason, but it does not include relevant evidence that supports the claim.

Claim: The town should build a skate park because skateboards look cool.

1 SORT 8 items

For each argument, circle BACKED or UNBACKED; then, in Part 2, choose two items and explain which reason or evidence did or did not support each claim.

- | | | | |
|----|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Claim: The library should stay open later. A survey of 120 students found that 87 need a quiet place to work after school. | ☐ BACKED | ☐ UNBACKED |
| 2. | Claim: The playground needs a water fountain. During three hot days, 27 students told recess monitors they were thirsty, and the playground has no fountain. | ☐ BACKED | ☐ UNBACKED |
| 3. | Claim: Our school needs a new mascot because purple is the best color. | ☐ BACKED | ☐ UNBACKED |
| 4. | Claim: The bus route should add a stop near Oak Street. Twelve students who live there walk more than a mile to the nearest stop. | ☐ BACKED | ☐ UNBACKED |
| 5. | Claim: The cafeteria should serve tacos every day because my cousin likes tacos. | ☐ BACKED | ☐ UNBACKED |
| 6. | Claim: The school band is the best in the state because its drums are loud. | ☐ BACKED | ☐ UNBACKED |
| 7. | Claim: The recycling bins should be emptied more often. Custodians noted that the bins were full before lunch on 9 of 10 school days. | ☐ BACKED | ☐ UNBACKED |
| 8. | Claim: Students should get no homework because homework is boring. | ☐ BACKED | ☐ UNBACKED |

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 relevant evidence and one new UNBACKED claim with no relevant evidence.

BACKED

UNBACKED

CHALLENGE

Write a claim and one fact that is true but does not support the claim. Explain why the fact is not relevant evidence.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Claim: The library should stay open later. A survey of 120 students found that 87 need a quiet place to work after school.	BACKED	The survey gives relevant data showing that many students need after-school study space.
2	Claim: The playground needs a water fountain. During three hot days, 27 students told recess monitors they were thirsty, and the playground has no fountain.	BACKED	The reports of thirsty students and the lack of a fountain are relevant evidence for the claim.
3	Claim: Our school needs a new mascot because purple is the best color.	UNBACKED	A personal opinion about a color does not show that the school needs a new mascot.
4	Claim: The bus route should add a stop near Oak Street. Twelve students who live there walk more than a mile to the nearest stop.	BACKED	The distance students walk is relevant evidence for adding a closer bus stop.
5	Claim: The cafeteria should serve tacos every day because my cousin likes tacos.	UNBACKED	One cousin's preference is not enough relevant evidence for a daily menu choice.
6	Claim: The school band is the best in the state because its drums are loud.	UNBACKED	Loud drums do not provide relevant evidence that the band is the best in the state.
7	Claim: The recycling bins should be emptied more often. Custodians noted that the bins were full before lunch on 9 of 10 school days.	BACKED	Records showing that bins were full before lunch on most days support more frequent emptying.
8	Claim: Students should get no homework because homework is boring.	UNBACKED	Saying homework is boring is an opinion, not relevant evidence for ending homework.

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:** Claim: The art room needs more stools. The art teacher counted 28 students but only 20 stools.
- **UNBACKED:** Claim: The art room needs more stools because stools are nicer than chairs.

Challenge: Claim: Our school should add a longer lunch period because 80 students ride the bus. Bus ridership does not show that students need more time to eat.

For Part 2, students should name the specific fact, data, or opinion that led to each choice. For the challenge, accept any true fact if the student clearly explains why it does not connect to the claim.