

Which Side?

Tell the writer's position from the opposing position.

7W1.a "Introduce a precise claim, acknowledge and distinguish the claim from a counterclaim, and organize the reasons and evidence logically."

NAME _____

DATE _____

CLAIM

A claim states the writer's position on an issue. On this page, the claim supports adding 20 minutes of silent reading each day.

The city should add protected bike lanes downtown because they would make cycling safer.

COUNTERCLAIM

A counterclaim gives a reasonable position that disagrees with the claim. It explains the other side of the issue.

The city should not add protected bike lanes downtown because the street space is needed for delivery vehicles.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each statement about adding 20 minutes of silent reading each day, circle CLAIM or OPPOSING, then choose two items and explain what words helped you decide.

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Silent reading would give students daily time to build focus. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ OPPOSING |
| 2. | Students could use the reading time to practice understanding new words. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ OPPOSING |
| 3. | The 20 minutes should be used for extra science investigations instead. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ OPPOSING |
| 4. | Students could choose books that match their own interests. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ OPPOSING |
| 5. | Classes need all of their available time for group projects. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ OPPOSING |
| 6. | The school should use the 20 minutes for math support instead. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ OPPOSING |
| 7. | Reading every day can help students find authors they enjoy. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ OPPOSING |
| 8. | A quiet reading time could help students settle into learning. | ☐ CLAIM | ☐ OPPOSING |

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 CLAIM and one new OPPOSING statement about adding 20 minutes of silent reading each day.

CLAIM _____

OPPOSING _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a different school issue. Write a claim and a counterclaim that clearly disagree about the same issue.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Silent reading would give students daily time to build focus.	CLAIM	It supports adding daily silent reading.
2	Students could use the reading time to practice understanding new words.	CLAIM	It gives a benefit of adding daily silent reading.
3	The 20 minutes should be used for extra science investigations instead.	OPPOSING	It argues that the time should go to something other than silent reading.
4	Students could choose books that match their own interests.	CLAIM	It gives a reason to add daily silent reading.
5	Classes need all of their available time for group projects.	OPPOSING	It gives a reason not to set aside time for silent reading.
6	The school should use the 20 minutes for math support instead.	OPPOSING	It proposes a different use for the time.
7	Reading every day can help students find authors they enjoy.	CLAIM	It supports adding daily silent reading.
8	A quiet reading time could help students settle into learning.	CLAIM	It gives a benefit of adding daily silent reading.

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:** Adding silent reading would let students discover books they enjoy.
- **OPPOSING:** The school should spend the 20 minutes on tutoring sessions instead.

Challenge: Claim: The school should allow students to refill water bottles during class. Counterclaim: The school should not allow students to refill water bottles during class.

Sort answers: 1 CLAIM, 2 CLAIM, 3 OPPOSING, 4 CLAIM, 5 OPPOSING, 6 OPPOSING, 7 CLAIM, 8 CLAIM.
For Part 2, students should explain that a claim supports silent reading, while an opposing statement argues against it or suggests a different use for the time.