Back It Up

Sort claims by the evidence they give.

9.3.R.5 "Students will evaluate the validity of a speaker's argument: • distinguish the kinds of evidence (e.g., logical, empirical, anecdotal) • distinguish substantiated from unsubstantiated claims • analyze rhetorical appeals (i.e., ethos..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

BACKED CLAIM

A backed claim gives specific evidence that directly supports it. The evidence might be an observation, a measurement, or a record.

The seedlings grew taller: a ruler showed they were 4 cm tall on Friday and 9 cm tall the next Friday.

BARE CLAIM

A bare claim gives no evidence that directly supports it. Sounding certain does not make a claim backed.

This pencil is the best one for drawing.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered claim, circle BACKED or BARE, then choose two items and explain how you knew where each belonged.

1.	The art club grew: its roster lists 12 members in September and 18 in October.	BACKED BARE
2.	More novels were checked out in April than in March: library records show 84 novel loans in April and 61 in March.	BACKED BARE
3.	The cafeteria's new menu is healthier than the old one.	BACKED BARE
4.	The north stairwell is scheduled to close Tuesday: a posted notice lists that closure.	BACKED BARE
5.	The gym floor is safer than it was last year.	BACKED BARE
6.	The school play sold more tickets this year than last year.	BACKED BARE
7.	The east entrance is scheduled to open at 7:30 a.m.: the posted school schedule lists that time.	BACKED BARE
8.	The classroom was warmer after the heater was turned on: a thermometer read 62°F before and 69°F afterward.	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 specific evidence and one new BARE claim with no evidence.

BACKED _____

BARE _____

CHALLENGE

Revise your BARE claim into a BACKED claim by adding specific evidence that directly supports it.

ANSWER KEY # Back It Up

GRADE 9 · 9.3.R.5

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The art club grew: its roster lists 12 members in September and 18 in October.	**BACKED**	The roster counts directly support the claim that membership grew.
2	More novels were checked out in April than in March: library records show 84 novel loans in April and 61 in March.	**BACKED**	The loan counts directly support the comparison.
3	The cafeteria's new menu is healthier than the old one.	**BARE**	No nutritional information or other relevant evidence is given.
4	The north stairwell is scheduled to close Tuesday: a posted notice lists that closure.	**BACKED**	The notice directly supports the claim about the schedule.
5	The gym floor is safer than it was last year.	**BARE**	No evidence is given to support the safety comparison.
6	The school play sold more tickets this year than last year.	**BARE**	No ticket counts or sales records are given.
7	The east entrance is scheduled to open at 7:30 a.m.: the posted school schedule lists that time.	**BACKED**	The posted schedule directly supports the stated opening time.
8	The classroom was warmer after the heater was turned on: a thermometer read 62°F before and 69°F afterward.	**BACKED**	The thermometer readings directly support the temperature comparison.

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 robotics club met twice this week: its attendance log lists meetings on Monday and Thursday.
- **BARE**: The courtyard has more shade than the playground.

Challenge: The courtyard has more shade than the playground: measurements taken at noon on the same day showed that shade covered 70% of the courtyard and 20% of the playground.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the relevant evidence in a backed claim or note its absence in a bare claim. Evidence must support the exact claim, not just relate to its topic.