Claims Under the Lens

Sort civic claims, then pick two numbered items and explain how you knew each type.

5.P.3.2.B "Distinguish fact from opinion in nonfiction text and investigate facts for accuracy."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FACT

A fact tells something true that you can check with evidence from a reliable source.

Ancient Egyptians built pyramids.

OPINION

An opinion tells what someone thinks, feels, or believes should happen. Evidence may support an opinion, but it cannot prove that everyone must agree.

Painting murals is the best way to share history.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each claim and circle FACT or OPINION.

1. The U.S. Capitol is in Washington, D.C. — FACT / OPINION
2. The Capitol is the most beautiful building in the country. — FACT / OPINION
3. The Senate is one of the two parts of Congress. — FACT / OPINION
4. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives are elected every two years. — FACT / OPINION
5. Watching a debate in Congress would be more fun than visiting a museum. — FACT / OPINION
6. The U.S. Constitution took effect in 1789. — FACT / OPINION
7. The White House is the official home and workplace of the U.S. president. — FACT / OPINION
8. Every child should visit Washington, D.C. — FACT / OPINION

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, accurate fact and one new opinion about government or a community.

FACT _____

OPINION _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one fact from Part 1. Name a reliable source you could use to check it, and tell what you would look for.

ANSWER KEY

Claims Under the Lens

GRADE 5 · 5.P.3.2.B

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The U.S. Capitol is in Washington, D.C.	**FACT**	The Capitol's location can be checked on an official map or website.
2	The Capitol is the most beautiful building in the country.	**OPINION**	Beauty is a personal judgment.
3	The Senate is one of the two parts of Congress.	**FACT**	The structure of Congress can be checked in the Constitution.
4	Members of the U.S. House of Representatives are elected every two years.	**FACT**	The length of a House term can be checked in the Constitution.
5	Watching a debate in Congress would be more fun than visiting a museum.	**OPINION**	What is more fun depends on the person.
6	The U.S. Constitution took effect in 1789.	**FACT**	The date can be checked in a reliable history source.
7	The White House is the official home and workplace of the U.S. president.	**FACT**	The building's role can be checked in an official source.
8	Every child should visit Washington, D.C.	**OPINION**	The word 'should' expresses a belief about what people ought to do.

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)

- **FACT**: The U.S. Supreme Court has nine justices.
- **OPINION**: Community gardens are the best places for neighbors to meet.

Challenge: For item 1, I would check an official U.S. Capitol website for its address to confirm that the Capitol is in Washington, D.C.

For Part 2, accept two numbered items with explanations that identify checkable evidence for facts or personal judgments for opinions. For the challenge, look for a source and a specific detail the student would check.