Build the Argument

Sort positions from sourced facts

AWH.P.4.1.B "Compose argumentative written products, including a precise claim as distinguished from opposing claims, organizing logical reasoning, and providing credible evidence to develop an argument."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLAIM

A claim states a position someone could reasonably disagree with. In an argument, you use evidence to support it.

Congress should protect the Library of Congress's historical collections.

EVIDENCE

Evidence is a checkable fact from a credible source. It can help a writer support a claim.

The Library of Congress states that it was established in 1800.

1 SORT

8 items

In Part 1, circle CLAIM or EVIDENCE for each item; in Part 2, choose two items and explain which words helped you sort each one.

1.	The town should preserve its oldest train station.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
2.	Schools should require a course on local government.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
3.	The National Park Service reports that Yellowstone was established in 1872.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
4.	The voting age should be lowered to 16 in city elections.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
5.	The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the 2020 census counted 331,449,281 U.S. residents.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
6.	The National Archives records that the 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
7.	States should make Election Day a public holiday.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
8.	Museums should return artifacts taken without consent.	CLAIM EVIDENCE

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

Choose a social studies issue not shown above. Write one arguable claim about it and one sourced, checkable fact that supports your claim.

CLAIM _____

EVIDENCE _____

CHALLENGE

Turn your claim and evidence into a two-sentence argument. State your claim in the first sentence, then cite your evidence and explain how it supports the claim in the second.

Build the Argument

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The town should preserve its oldest train station.	**CLAIM**	Takes a debatable position on preservation.
2	Schools should require a course on local government.	**CLAIM**	Proposes a policy that people could dispute.
3	The National Park Service reports that Yellowstone was established in 1872.	**EVIDENCE**	Provides a checkable historical fact from a named source.
4	The voting age should be lowered to 16 in city elections.	**CLAIM**	States a debatable position about election rules.
5	The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the 2020 census counted 331,449,281 U.S. residents.	**EVIDENCE**	Provides a checkable count from the agency that conducted the census.
6	The National Archives records that the 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920.	**EVIDENCE**	Provides a checkable historical fact from a named source.
7	States should make Election Day a public holiday.	**CLAIM**	Recommends a policy that people could dispute.
8	Museums should return artifacts taken without consent.	**CLAIM**	States a debatable position about museum policy.

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**: Washington, D.C., should have a voting member in Congress.
- **EVIDENCE**: According to the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.'s delegate cannot vote on final House legislation.

Challenge: Washington, D.C., should have a voting member in Congress. The U.S. House of Representatives says the district's delegate cannot vote on final House legislation, which means residents lack a full vote in that chamber.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are claims; items 3, 5, and 6 are evidence. For Part 2, look for explanations that identify a debatable position or a sourced, checkable fact.