Thesis or Claim?

Sort statements by the kind of writing they introduce.

E.P.4.1 "Summarize and paraphrase, integrate evidence, and cite sources to create written products, research projects, and presentations for multiple purposes related to social studies content. Compose informative essays and written products..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

INFORMATIVE THESIS

An informative thesis states the main idea of an explanation. It describes what happened or how a process worked without asking readers to choose a side.

River systems shaped where ancient Egyptian communities built farms and settlements.

ARGUMENTATIVE CLAIM

An argumentative claim takes a position someone could reasonably challenge. It makes a judgment or proposes an action that needs evidence to defend it.

City councils should protect historic theaters instead of approving new parking garages.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle INFORM or ARGUE for each statement; for Part 2, choose two items from different categories and explain what helped you decide for each.

1.	1. The New Deal expanded the federal government's role in economic relief and regulation.	INFORM ARGUE
2.	2. The Great Migration changed population patterns and cultural life in northern U.S. cities.	INFORM ARGUE
3.	3. Congress should restore voting rights to people convicted of felonies after they complete their sentences.	INFORM ARGUE
4.	4. The printing press increased the spread of written ideas in early modern Europe.	INFORM ARGUE
5.	5. Schools should require a course on local Indigenous history for graduation.	INFORM ARGUE
6.	6. The United States should make Election Day a national holiday.	INFORM ARGUE
7.	7. The Columbian Exchange moved crops, animals, and diseases between the Americas and Afro-Eurasia.	INFORM ARGUE
8.	8. The 19th Amendment barred states from denying voting rights on the basis of sex.	INFORM ARGUE

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

For Part 3, write one new informative thesis and one new argumentative claim about social studies topics.

INFORM _____

ARGUE _____

CHALLENGE

Turn your informative thesis into an argumentative claim about the same topic, then name one kind of historical source you could use to defend your claim.

ANSWER KEY

Thesis or Claim?

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PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. The New Deal expanded the federal government's role in economic relief and regulation.	**INFORM**	It states a historical change without taking a position on whether that change was desirable.
2	2. The Great Migration changed population patterns and cultural life in northern U.S. cities.	**INFORM**	It introduces an explanation of the migration's effects.
3	3. Congress should restore voting rights to people convicted of felonies after they complete their sentences.	**ARGUE**	It proposes a policy that people could reasonably oppose.
4	4. The printing press increased the spread of written ideas in early modern Europe.	**INFORM**	It states an effect to explain, not a judgment to defend.
5	5. Schools should require a course on local Indigenous history for graduation.	**ARGUE**	It recommends a debatable graduation requirement.
6	6. The United States should make Election Day a national holiday.	**ARGUE**	It calls for a policy change that requires a defense.
7	7. The Columbian Exchange moved crops, animals, and diseases between the Americas and Afro-Eurasia.	**INFORM**	It describes a historical process without recommending or judging it.
8	8. The 19th Amendment barred states from denying voting rights on the basis of sex.	**INFORM**	It states what a constitutional amendment did.

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)

- **INFORM**: Industrialization drew many workers from rural areas into growing factory towns.
- **ARGUE**: State governments should fund free visits to public museums for students.

Challenge: During industrialization, governments should have required safer conditions for workers in factory towns. Factory inspection reports from the period could help support this claim.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a descriptive main idea for INFORM and a debatable judgment or proposed action for ARGUE. Students should refer to the wording of both items they chose.