Position or Proof?

Sort the parts of a social studies argument.

E.P.4 "Develop a variety of evidence-based written products designed for multiple purposes. Summarize and paraphrase, integrate evidence, and cite sources to create written products, research projects..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLAIM	EVIDENCE
A claim is a position a writer wants readers to accept. People can reasonably disagree with it.	Evidence is a checkable fact from an identified source. A writer can use it to support a claim.
Free weekend museum entry is a better policy than charging visitors.	Apollo 11 astronauts landed on the Moon in 1969 (NASA, "Apollo 11").

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLAIM or EVIDENCE for each item; for Part 2, choose two items and explain how you knew where each belonged.

1.	The city should let 16-year-olds vote in local elections.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
2.	The Twenty-Sixth Amendment protects voting rights for citizens 18 and older (U.S. Const. amend. XXVI).	CLAIM EVIDENCE
3.	The First Amendment protects the right to petition the government (U.S. Const. amend. I).	CLAIM EVIDENCE
4.	Our school board should give students time to speak at public meetings.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
5.	States should teach the history of voting restrictions in required civics classes.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
6.	The Twenty-Fourth Amendment bans poll taxes in federal elections (U.S. Const. amend. XXIV).	CLAIM EVIDENCE
7.	The minimum age for U.S. House members should be lowered through a constitutional amendment.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
8.	The Constitution requires U.S. House members to be at least 25 years old (U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 2).	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

Write one new social studies CLAIM and one new EVIDENCE statement that names its source.

CLAIM _____

EVIDENCE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a claim from Part 1 and write two sentences: state an opposing claim, then use a cited evidence item from Part 1 to support the original claim.

Position or Proof?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The city should let 16-year-olds vote in local elections.	**CLAIM**	Proposes a debatable change to local voting rules.
2	The Twenty-Sixth Amendment protects voting rights for citizens 18 and older (U.S. Const. amend. XXVI).	**EVIDENCE**	States a checkable fact and cites its source.
3	The First Amendment protects the right to petition the government (U.S. Const. amend. I).	**EVIDENCE**	States a checkable fact and cites its source.
4	Our school board should give students time to speak at public meetings.	**CLAIM**	Proposes a debatable school board policy.
5	States should teach the history of voting restrictions in required civics classes.	**CLAIM**	Proposes a debatable curriculum requirement.
6	The Twenty-Fourth Amendment bans poll taxes in federal elections (U.S. Const. amend. XXIV).	**EVIDENCE**	States a checkable fact and cites its source.
7	The minimum age for U.S. House members should be lowered through a constitutional amendment.	**CLAIM**	Proposes a debatable constitutional change.
8	The Constitution requires U.S. House members to be at least 25 years old (U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 2).	**EVIDENCE**	States a checkable fact and cites its source.

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**: Public libraries should provide online access to local history records.
- **EVIDENCE**: The Library of Congress offers historical newspapers online through Chronicling America (Library of Congress, "Chronicling America").

Challenge: Required civics classes should not devote time to voting restrictions because they have other topics to cover. Yet the Twenty-Fourth Amendment bans poll taxes in federal elections (U.S. Const. amend. XXIV), giving students a concrete example to study in civics class.

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