Take a Stand

Sort statements for an argument about voting access.

MWH.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 is a position the writer wants readers to accept. A reasonable person could disagree with it.

Space missions deserve a larger budget.

EVIDENCE

Evidence is a checkable detail from a trustworthy source that can support a claim. It does not tell readers what position to take.

NASA reports that Apollo 11 landed on the Moon in 1969.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLAIM or EVIDENCE for each statement, then pick two item numbers and explain what makes each a claim or evidence.

1.	Congress should fund voter registration programs for adults ages 18 to 20.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
2.	According to the National Archives, the 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
3.	States should add more polling places in crowded neighborhoods.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
4.	Schools should teach how voting rights changed over time.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
5.	According to the National Archives, the 26th Amendment lowered the voting age to 18 in 1971.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
6.	Congress should set a minimum early-voting period for federal elections.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
7.	States should offer voter registration at more public offices.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
8.	According to the National Archives, the 24th Amendment banned poll taxes in federal elections in 1964.	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 CLAIM about voting access and one new EVIDENCE statement about voting rights or access; name a trustworthy source for your evidence.

CLAIM _____

EVIDENCE _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences: state an opposing claim to one claim in the sort, then explain how a sourced fact in the sort could help you respond.

ANSWER KEY # Take a Stand

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PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Congress should fund voter registration programs for adults ages 18 to 20.	**CLAIM**	It proposes a policy that a reader could oppose.
2	According to the National Archives, the 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920.	**EVIDENCE**	It gives a checkable historical fact and names its source.
3	States should add more polling places in crowded neighborhoods.	**CLAIM**	It takes an arguable position about voting access.
4	Schools should teach how voting rights changed over time.	**CLAIM**	It proposes an arguable choice for schools.
5	According to the National Archives, the 26th Amendment lowered the voting age to 18 in 1971.	**EVIDENCE**	It provides a checkable fact from a named source.
6	Congress should set a minimum early-voting period for federal elections.	**CLAIM**	It proposes a policy that a reader could oppose.
7	States should offer voter registration at more public offices.	**CLAIM**	It takes an arguable position about registration access.
8	According to the National Archives, the 24th Amendment banned poll taxes in federal elections in 1964.	**EVIDENCE**	It states a checkable historical fact and identifies 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**: Local governments should provide free rides to polling places on Election Day.
- **EVIDENCE**: According to the National Archives, the 15th Amendment was ratified in 1870.

Challenge: Some argue that Congress should not fund programs to help young adults register to vote. According to the National Archives, the 26th Amendment lowered the voting age to 18 in 1971, so registration help could make that right easier to use.

For Part 2, a student might explain that item 1 proposes a policy, while item 5 states a sourced, checkable fact. Accept other explanations that identify the feature that distinguishes each selected item.