Purpose in a Sentence

Sort social studies thesis statements by what they do.

OKH.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 tells readers what a written product will explain. It connects important facts without asking readers to agree with a proposed action.

Ancient Egyptian irrigation relied on canals and the Nile's yearly floods.

ARGUMENTATIVE CLAIM

An argumentative claim takes a position that someone could reasonably oppose. It gives a reason that evidence could support.

Congress should expand protections for historic shipwrecks because salvaging can destroy evidence of maritime life.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle EXPLAIN or ARGUE for each statement; for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	The Indian Removal Act reshaped federal policy and threatened Native nations' homelands.	EXPLAIN ARGUE
2.	Drought and land-use practices combined to intensify the Dust Bowl and disrupt life on the Great Plains.	EXPLAIN ARGUE
3.	Oklahoma lawmakers should require public hearings before closing rural polling places because longer travel can limit voter access.	EXPLAIN ARGUE
4.	The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre destroyed Greenwood property and displaced many residents.	EXPLAIN ARGUE
5.	City governments should publish budget summaries in plain language so residents can track spending.	EXPLAIN ARGUE
6.	State archives should return tribal language recordings to the nations that created them because those nations should control their cultural records.	EXPLAIN ARGUE
7.	The U.S. Constitution separates federal powers and provides checks among three branches of government.	EXPLAIN ARGUE
8.	New Deal programs offered jobs and expanded the federal government's role in economic relief.	EXPLAIN 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. Give a reason in your argumentative claim.

EXPLAIN _____

ARGUE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose your argumentative claim. Write two sentences naming two different credible sources you could use to support it and explaining what evidence each could provide.

ANSWER KEY

Purpose in a Sentence

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PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The Indian Removal Act reshaped federal policy and threatened Native nations' homelands.	**EXPLAIN**	It identifies effects to explain without proposing an action.
2	Drought and land-use practices combined to intensify the Dust Bowl and disrupt life on the Great Plains.	**EXPLAIN**	It connects causes and effects without taking a position on what should be done.
3	Oklahoma lawmakers should require public hearings before closing rural polling places because longer travel can limit voter access.	**ARGUE**	It proposes a debatable policy and gives a reason.
4	The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre destroyed Greenwood property and displaced many residents.	**EXPLAIN**	It identifies historical effects to explain.
5	City governments should publish budget summaries in plain language so residents can track spending.	**ARGUE**	It supports a proposed action with a reason.
6	State archives should return tribal language recordings to the nations that created them because those nations should control their cultural records.	**ARGUE**	It takes a debatable position and explains why.
7	The U.S. Constitution separates federal powers and provides checks among three branches of government.	**EXPLAIN**	It identifies related features of a system to explain.
8	New Deal programs offered jobs and expanded the federal government's role in economic relief.	**EXPLAIN**	It connects two historical effects without proposing an action.

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)

- **EXPLAIN**: The transcontinental railroad changed travel times and trade across the western United States.
- **ARGUE**: States should require financial literacy classes because students need to understand loans and budgets.

Challenge: A state education department's course standards could show whether current classes cover loans and budgets. A peer-reviewed study of financial education could provide evidence about how instruction affects students' financial decisions.

For Part 2, accept explanations that distinguish a topic for explanation from a debatable position supported by a reason. For Part 3, accept other accurate social studies examples that meet the stated criteria.