Claims or Proof?

Sort statements, then use evidence to build an argument.

USG.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 _____

SOURCED EVIDENCE

Evidence gives a checkable fact from a named, reliable source. It can help support a claim.

The Library of Congress says it was established in 1800.

DEBATABLE CLAIM

A claim states a position someone could argue for or against. It does not itself provide a sourced fact.

Every town should build more bike lanes.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle EVIDENCE or CLAIM for each item; in Part 2, choose one of each and explain how you knew.

1.	The National Archives' 26th Amendment transcript says citizens age 18 or older cannot be denied a vote because of age.	EVIDENCE CLAIM
2.	The U.S. Election Assistance Commission says North Dakota does not require voter registration.	EVIDENCE CLAIM
3.	High schools should give students nonpartisan voting guides.	EVIDENCE CLAIM
4.	Voting lessons should replace one week of required science classes.	EVIDENCE CLAIM
5.	The National Archives' 19th Amendment transcript prohibits denying a citizen the vote on account of sex.	EVIDENCE CLAIM
6.	Schools should not use class time to discuss elections.	EVIDENCE CLAIM
7.	Schools should invite candidates to speak to students.	EVIDENCE CLAIM
8.	The U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 2, says members of the House serve two-year terms.	EVIDENCE CLAIM

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 evidence sentence that names a reliable source and one new debatable claim about civic life.

EVIDENCE _____

CLAIM _____

CHALLENGE

Write three sentences about giving high school students nonpartisan voting guides: state a precise claim, state an opposing claim, then use one relevant evidence item from Part 1 to explain your reasoning.

Claims or Proof?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The National Archives' 26th Amendment transcript says citizens age 18 or older cannot be denied a vote because of age.	**EVIDENCE**	Names a reliable source and gives a checkable fact about voting rights.
2	The U.S. Election Assistance Commission says North Dakota does not require voter registration.	**EVIDENCE**	Names a reliable source and gives a checkable fact about registration.
3	High schools should give students nonpartisan voting guides.	**CLAIM**	States a debatable position about what schools should do.
4	Voting lessons should replace one week of required science classes.	**CLAIM**	States a debatable position about class time.
5	The National Archives' 19th Amendment transcript prohibits denying a citizen the vote on account of sex.	**EVIDENCE**	Names a reliable source and gives a checkable fact about voting rights.
6	Schools should not use class time to discuss elections.	**CLAIM**	States a debatable position about class time.
7	Schools should invite candidates to speak to students.	**CLAIM**	States a debatable position about school events.
8	The U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 2, says members of the House serve two-year terms.	**EVIDENCE**	Names a reliable source and gives a checkable fact about government.

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)

- **EVIDENCE**: The U.S. Constitution's 22nd Amendment limits a person to being elected president twice.
- **CLAIM**: Cities should hold more public meetings after work hours.

Challenge: High schools should give seniors a nonpartisan guide to their state's voting rules before graduation. Others argue that schools should not spend class time distributing voting guides. The U.S. Election Assistance Commission says North Dakota does not require voter registration, which shows why a state-specific guide could help students understand the rules where they live.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a named, reliable source in an evidence item and a debatable position in a claim item. In the challenge, check that the evidence is relevant to the precise claim and that the final sentence explains the connection.