Claim or Proof?

Sort positions from sourced facts in civic writing.

USG.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

A claim takes a position someone could reasonably debate. It needs evidence to support it.

Public museums should offer free entry to teens.

CITED EVIDENCE

Cited evidence gives a fact that a reader can check in a named source. You can use it to support a claim.

The National Park Service was established in 1916 (National Park Service Organic Act, 1916).

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLAIM or EVIDENCE for each statement, then choose two items, one from each category, and explain how you knew.

1.	States should offer more weekend voting hours.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
2.	Congress should require clearer language on voter forms.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
3.	Members of the House serve two-year terms (U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 2).	CLAIM EVIDENCE
4.	Candidates should hold more public question-and-answer events.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
5.	The Voting Rights Act bars voting rules that deny voting rights on the basis of race (Voting Rights Act of 1965, Section 2).	CLAIM EVIDENCE
6.	The 26th Amendment forbids denying citizens age 18 or older the vote because of age (U.S. Constitution, Amendment 26).	CLAIM EVIDENCE
7.	States should provide more voting information in public libraries.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
8.	Local leaders should hold more forums on election rules.	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 original claim and one cited fact that could support it about a social studies issue not used in the sort.

CLAIM _____

EVIDENCE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a different issue and write two sentences: state a claim, then give a cited fact and explain how it supports your claim.

Claim or Proof?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	States should offer more weekend voting hours.	**CLAIM**	Proposes a debatable change to voting access.
2	Congress should require clearer language on voter forms.	**CLAIM**	Takes a position on what Congress should require.
3	Members of the House serve two-year terms (U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 2).	**EVIDENCE**	States a verifiable fact and cites its source.
4	Candidates should hold more public question-and-answer events.	**CLAIM**	Proposes a debatable action for candidates.
5	The Voting Rights Act bars voting rules that deny voting rights on the basis of race (Voting Rights Act of 1965, Section 2).	**EVIDENCE**	Summarizes a verifiable legal rule and cites its source.
6	The 26th Amendment forbids denying citizens age 18 or older the vote because of age (U.S. Constitution, Amendment 26).	**EVIDENCE**	Summarizes a verifiable constitutional rule and cites its source.
7	States should provide more voting information in public libraries.	**CLAIM**	Recommends a policy someone could debate.
8	Local leaders should hold more forums on election rules.	**CLAIM**	Recommends a debatable action for local leaders.

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**: Congress should increase funding for national parks.
- **EVIDENCE**: The National Park Service manages more than 400 sites (National Park Service, About Us).

Challenge: Schools should teach students about freedom of the press. The First Amendment protects freedom of the press, so learning about it helps students understand a constitutional right (U.S. Constitution, Amendment 1).

For Part 2, an explanation might identify item 2 as a debatable proposal and item 5 as a fact that names its source. Accept other accurate explanations that distinguish a position from a sourced, verifiable fact.