Fear and Power

Part 2: Choose two items and explain how you knew where each belongs.

USH.C.6.2.A "Summarize the reasons for the public fear of communist influence within the United States of America and how politicians capitalized on this fear."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SOURCE OF FEAR	POLITICAL USE
An event or report in this category made Americans worry about communist expansion or hidden agents in the United States. A newspaper reports that communist organizers are secretly recruiting at a local factory.	An action in this category shows a politician using that fear to gain votes, support, or attention. A governor warns about communist danger while urging voters to back a proposed state law.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered item, circle FEAR if it describes a source of public fear or POLITICS if it describes a politician using that fear.

1.	In 1949, the Soviet Union tested its first atomic bomb.	FEAR POLITICS
2.	In 1950, Klaus Fuchs confessed to sharing nuclear secrets with the Soviet Union.	FEAR POLITICS
3.	Senator Joseph McCarthy claimed to have a list of communists in the State Department but offered no proof.	FEAR POLITICS
4.	In 1949, China's Communist Party won the civil war.	FEAR POLITICS
5.	A candidate called a rival "soft on communism" to win votes.	FEAR POLITICS
6.	Members of Congress turned hearings on suspected communists into public spectacles to attract attention.	FEAR POLITICS
7.	The Rosenbergs were convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage in 1951.	FEAR POLITICS
8.	After World War II, Soviet-backed governments took power across Eastern Europe.	FEAR POLITICS

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

Part 3: Write one new example of a source of public fear and one new example of a politician using that fear.

FEAR _____

POLITICS _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences: describe one source of public fear, then explain how a politician might use that fear to gain support.

ANSWER KEY

Fear and Power

HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.6.2.A

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	In 1949, the Soviet Union tested its first atomic bomb.	**FEAR**	The test heightened fears about Soviet power and possible leaks of U.S. secrets.
2	In 1950, Klaus Fuchs confessed to sharing nuclear secrets with the Soviet Union.	**FEAR**	His confession showed that a spy had passed along nuclear information.
3	Senator Joseph McCarthy claimed to have a list of communists in the State Department but offered no proof.	**POLITICS**	McCarthy used an unproven accusation to draw attention and fuel suspicion.
4	In 1949, China's Communist Party won the civil war.	**FEAR**	The victory increased concern about the spread of communism.
5	A candidate called a rival "soft on communism" to win votes.	**POLITICS**	The candidate used fear as a campaign tactic.
6	Members of Congress turned hearings on suspected communists into public spectacles to attract attention.	**POLITICS**	They used public fear to draw attention to themselves.
7	The Rosenbergs were convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage in 1951.	**FEAR**	The convictions heightened concern about spying for the Soviet Union.
8	After World War II, Soviet-backed governments took power across Eastern Europe.	**FEAR**	Their rise increased concern about communist expansion.

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)

- **FEAR**: A report says that a communist spy was found at a military base.
- **POLITICS**: A senator uses worries about spies in a campaign speech to ask for votes.

Challenge: A report of stolen defense plans could make people worry about spies in the United States. A politician might use that worry to ask voters to support stricter security laws.

Part 2 explanations should identify whether an item describes a cause of public worry or an action that uses that worry for political gain. Accept different Part 3 examples that clearly fit the two categories.