Claim or Proof?

Sort positions from facts that can support them.

USH.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 _____

HISTORICAL CLAIM

A claim takes a position that someone could reasonably challenge. An argument uses evidence to support it.

The Louisiana Purchase changed the nation's future more than any other land acquisition.

SOURCE EVIDENCE

Evidence is a specific, checkable fact from a credible source. It can help support a claim.

The 1803 Louisiana Purchase treaty set the purchase price at $15 million.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle CLAIM or EVIDENCE for each item; for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how you knew where it belonged.

1.	Federal oversight was the most important part of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
2.	The Fifteenth Amendment alone did not sufficiently protect Black voters.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
3.	The Fifteenth Amendment, ratified in 1870, forbids denying voting rights based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
4.	The Twenty-Fourth Amendment was the most effective voting reform of the 1960s.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
5.	The Twenty-Fourth Amendment, ratified in 1964, banned poll taxes in federal elections.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
6.	Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 required certain jurisdictions to get federal approval before changing voting rules.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
7.	Congress should have passed a nationwide ban on literacy tests sooner than it did.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
8.	Federal enforcement did more to protect voting rights than constitutional amendments alone.	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Write one new CLAIM about voting rights in U.S. history and one new EVIDENCE example from a named historical document.

CLAIM _____

EVIDENCE _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences arguing whether a federal action helped expand voting access: state a precise claim, then support it with a fact from a named historical source.

ANSWER KEY

Claim or Proof?

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PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Federal oversight was the most important part of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.	**CLAIM**	It makes a debatable judgment about which part of the law mattered most.
2	The Fifteenth Amendment alone did not sufficiently protect Black voters.	**CLAIM**	It takes a debatable position about the amendment's effectiveness.
3	The Fifteenth Amendment, ratified in 1870, forbids denying voting rights based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude.	**EVIDENCE**	The amendment's text and ratification date provide checkable facts.
4	The Twenty-Fourth Amendment was the most effective voting reform of the 1960s.	**CLAIM**	It makes a debatable comparison among reforms.
5	The Twenty-Fourth Amendment, ratified in 1964, banned poll taxes in federal elections.	**EVIDENCE**	The named amendment provides a checkable fact about federal elections.
6	Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 required certain jurisdictions to get federal approval before changing voting rules.	**EVIDENCE**	The named section provides a checkable fact about the law as enacted.
7	Congress should have passed a nationwide ban on literacy tests sooner than it did.	**CLAIM**	It states a debatable judgment about when Congress should have acted.
8	Federal enforcement did more to protect voting rights than constitutional amendments alone.	**CLAIM**	It makes a debatable comparison about the effects of two approaches.

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**: The Nineteenth Amendment was a turning point in the fight for voting rights.
- **EVIDENCE**: The Nineteenth Amendment, ratified in 1920, forbids denying voting rights on account of sex.

Challenge: The Twenty-Fourth Amendment was an essential step toward fairer federal elections. Its text bans poll taxes as a condition for voting in those elections.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are claims; items 3, 5, and 6 are evidence. In Part 2, look for an explanation that identifies a debatable position and a fact that can be checked against its named source.