Ballot Box Arguments

Sort statements about voting rights, then defend your choices.

USH.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 is a debatable interpretation that you can defend with research. It goes beyond a fact someone can simply look up.

The New Deal reshaped work more deeply than it reshaped banking.

EVIDENCE

Evidence is a verifiable detail from a named source. You can use it to support or challenge a claim.

The Social Security Act was signed into law on August 14, 1935 (Social Security Administration).

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle CLAIM or EVIDENCE for each statement; for Part 2, choose two item numbers and explain what helped you classify each one.

1.	1. The 19th Amendment barred denying the vote based on sex (U.S. Constitution, Amendment XIX).	CLAIM EVIDENCE
2.	2. Federal voting protections mattered more than state reforms in expanding access to the ballot.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
3.	3. Ending poll taxes was more urgent than lowering the voting age.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
4.	4. The 24th Amendment barred poll taxes in federal elections (U.S. Constitution, Amendment XXIV).	CLAIM EVIDENCE
5.	5. The 26th Amendment barred denying citizens age 18 or older the vote because of age (U.S. Constitution, Amendment XXVI).	CLAIM EVIDENCE
6.	6. The 26th Amendment had a greater impact on U.S. democracy than the 24th Amendment did.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
7.	7. Constitutional amendments alone could not ensure equal access to voting.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
8.	8. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 authorized federal examiners to register voters in certain areas (Voting Rights Act of 1965, Section 6).	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, debatable claim about access to voting and one new piece of evidence about access to voting that names its source.

CLAIM _____

EVIDENCE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one claim and one evidence item from Part 1, then write two sentences: use the cited evidence in the first sentence and explain how it supports or challenges the claim in the second.

Ballot Box Arguments

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. The 19th Amendment barred denying the vote based on sex (U.S. Constitution, Amendment XIX).	**EVIDENCE**	States a verifiable provision and names its source.
2	2. Federal voting protections mattered more than state reforms in expanding access to the ballot.	**CLAIM**	Makes a debatable comparison about the impact of two kinds of reforms.
3	3. Ending poll taxes was more urgent than lowering the voting age.	**CLAIM**	Makes a debatable judgment about which reform was more urgent.
4	4. The 24th Amendment barred poll taxes in federal elections (U.S. Constitution, Amendment XXIV).	**EVIDENCE**	States a verifiable provision and names its source.
5	5. The 26th Amendment barred denying citizens age 18 or older the vote because of age (U.S. Constitution, Amendment XXVI).	**EVIDENCE**	States a verifiable provision and names its source.
6	6. The 26th Amendment had a greater impact on U.S. democracy than the 24th Amendment did.	**CLAIM**	Makes a debatable comparison of historical impact.
7	7. Constitutional amendments alone could not ensure equal access to voting.	**CLAIM**	Offers an interpretation that requires historical support.
8	8. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 authorized federal examiners to register voters in certain areas (Voting Rights Act of 1965, Section 6).	**EVIDENCE**	States a verifiable provision and names its source.

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**: Local organizing did more to expand voting access than constitutional amendments alone.
- **EVIDENCE**: The 15th Amendment barred denying the vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude (U.S. Constitution, Amendment XV).

Challenge: The Voting Rights Act of 1965 authorized federal examiners to register voters in certain areas (Voting Rights Act of 1965, Section 6). This federal action supports the claim that constitutional amendments alone could not ensure equal access to voting.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a debatable interpretation in a claim or a sourced, verifiable detail in evidence. The challenge sample pairs items 7 and 8.