Claim or Evidence?

Sort statements, explain two choices, and write your own.

WG.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 _____

CLAIM

A claim states a specific position that people could disagree with. It says what someone thinks should happen.

Our school should open its library before classes twice a week.

EVIDENCE

Evidence gives a checkable fact from a trustworthy source that could help support a claim. It does not say what should happen.

The school library's posted schedule lists a 7:45 a.m. opening time on Mondays.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered statement, circle CLAIM or EVIDENCE, then choose two items and explain what helped you decide.

1.	1. The city should add a protected bike lane on Oak Street by next year.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
2.	2. The 26th Amendment prohibits denying voting rights on the basis of age to citizens 18 or older.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
3.	3. Congress should propose a constitutional amendment to lower the voting age to 16.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
4.	4. Our state should require public schools to test drinking water for lead every year.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
5.	5. The CDC reports that no safe blood lead level in children has been identified.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
6.	6. The EPA states that motor vehicles emit pollutants that can harm human health.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
7.	7. Federal rules require new public transit buses to be accessible to riders with disabilities.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
8.	8. The city should fund weekend bus service on Route 4 next year.	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 a public policy and one new EVIDENCE statement from a trustworthy source that could help support it.

CLAIM _____

EVIDENCE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one claim from Part 1 and write a one-sentence opposing claim about the same policy.

ANSWER KEY

Claim or Evidence?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. The city should add a protected bike lane on Oak Street by next year.	**CLAIM**	It proposes a specific city action that people could debate.
2	2. The 26th Amendment prohibits denying voting rights on the basis of age to citizens 18 or older.	**EVIDENCE**	It states a checkable fact from the U.S. Constitution.
3	3. Congress should propose a constitutional amendment to lower the voting age to 16.	**CLAIM**	It takes a specific, debatable position on voting policy.
4	4. Our state should require public schools to test drinking water for lead every year.	**CLAIM**	It proposes a specific state policy that people could debate.
5	5. The CDC reports that no safe blood lead level in children has been identified.	**EVIDENCE**	It gives a checkable health finding from a public health agency.
6	6. The EPA states that motor vehicles emit pollutants that can harm human health.	**EVIDENCE**	It gives a checkable fact attributed to an environmental agency.
7	7. Federal rules require new public transit buses to be accessible to riders with disabilities.	**EVIDENCE**	It states a checkable requirement rather than proposing a policy.
8	8. The city should fund weekend bus service on Route 4 next year.	**CLAIM**	It proposes a specific city action that people could debate.

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**: Our town should install a crosswalk near the community center.
- **EVIDENCE**: The town's published street map shows no marked crosswalk on the block beside the community center.

Challenge: For item 8: The city should not fund weekend bus service on Route 4 next year.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a proposed action for a claim or a checkable, sourced fact for evidence. Part 3 examples should address the same policy so the evidence could support the claim.