Take a Side

Sort claims by the position they take.

8.CL.8 "Produce clear, coherent narrative, argument, and informative/explanatory writing in which the development, organization, style, and tone are relevant to task, purpose, and audience, using an appropriate command of language. a..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SUPPORTING CLAIM

A supporting claim agrees with the position you are defending. It may give a reason for that position.

Our town should plant trees along Main Street because they would provide shade.

OPPOSING CLAIM

An opposing claim, also called a counterclaim, argues for a different position. It may give a reason to disagree.

Our town should not plant trees along Main Street because their roots could damage sidewalks.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle SUPPORT or OPPOSE for each statement about whether students should be allowed to use phones during lunch; for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how you knew.

1.	Letting students use phones at lunch would help them coordinate after-school rides.	SUPPORT OPPOSE
2.	Phone use at lunch should be allowed so students can check family messages.	SUPPORT OPPOSE
3.	Phones should remain off at lunch to protect time for face-to-face talk.	SUPPORT OPPOSE
4.	Students should be allowed to look up information for clubs on their phones during lunch.	SUPPORT OPPOSE
5.	The school should keep its lunch phone ban because screens can distract from eating.	SUPPORT OPPOSE
6.	Students should put phones away during lunch so everyone gets a break from notifications.	SUPPORT OPPOSE
7.	Lunch is free time, so students should be allowed to choose whether to use a phone.	SUPPORT OPPOSE
8.	Allowing phones during lunch would let students read digital books during their break.	SUPPORT OPPOSE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how you knew.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new claim that supports allowing phones during lunch and one new claim that opposes it.

SUPPORT _____

OPPOSE _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences: first state an opposing claim about lunch phone use, then answer it with a supporting claim and a reason.

ANSWER KEY

Take a Side

GRADE 8 · 8.CL.8

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Letting students use phones at lunch would help them coordinate after-school rides.	**SUPPORT**	It gives a reason to allow phones during lunch.
2	Phone use at lunch should be allowed so students can check family messages.	**SUPPORT**	It directly supports allowing phones during lunch.
3	Phones should remain off at lunch to protect time for face-to-face talk.	**OPPOSE**	It argues against phone use during lunch.
4	Students should be allowed to look up information for clubs on their phones during lunch.	**SUPPORT**	It supports allowing phones during lunch for a specific purpose.
5	The school should keep its lunch phone ban because screens can distract from eating.	**OPPOSE**	It supports a ban rather than allowing phones during lunch.
6	Students should put phones away during lunch so everyone gets a break from notifications.	**OPPOSE**	It argues that students should not use phones during lunch.
7	Lunch is free time, so students should be allowed to choose whether to use a phone.	**SUPPORT**	It argues for allowing students to use phones during lunch.
8	Allowing phones during lunch would let students read digital books during their break.	**SUPPORT**	It gives a reason to allow phones during lunch.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain how you knew.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SUPPORT**: Students should be allowed to use phones at lunch to translate messages from home.
- **OPPOSE**: Phones should stay put away at lunch because filming classmates without permission could invade their privacy.

Challenge: Some people argue that phones should stay away at lunch because games can cause arguments. However, students should be allowed to use phones during lunch because clear rules can limit games without banning every use.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 support allowing phones during lunch; items 3, 5, and 6 oppose it. For Part 2, accept explanations that show how each chosen statement agrees or disagrees with that position.