Back It Up

Sort presentation statements by the evidence they give.

12.1.S.3 "Students will conduct formal and informal presentations in a variety of contexts supporting their message with evidence and using verbal and nonverbal cues."

NAME _____ DATE _____

BACKED CLAIM

The speaker gives a specific, relevant fact or observation that supports the claim. The evidence helps listeners judge the speaker's point.

The community garden needs water tanks: volunteers recorded 17 dry planting beds in July.

UNBACKED CLAIM

The speaker makes a claim without relevant evidence. A confident tone or an unrelated fact does not support the point.

The museum should extend its hours because that would be amazing.

1 SORT

8 items

These statements come from fictional school presentations; circle BACKED or UNBACKED for each one, then choose two items for Part 2 and explain how you knew.

1.	Add a late bus: 46 students signed a request for one last week.	BACKED UNBACKED
2.	We should start classes later because students would prefer it.	BACKED UNBACKED
3.	Put plants in every classroom because it is obviously a smart idea.	BACKED UNBACKED
4.	Keep the library open on Saturdays: 82 of 120 students surveyed said weekday hours block their visits.	BACKED UNBACKED
5.	Add water refill stations: on Friday, the custodian counted 310 empty plastic bottles in hallway bins.	BACKED UNBACKED
6.	Offer a quiet lunch area: 38 students asked for a quieter place in last month's school survey.	BACKED UNBACKED
7.	Serve more soup at lunch: last week, our soccer team won three games.	BACKED UNBACKED
8.	Create a peer tutoring hour: last term, 64 students requested algebra help on tutoring sign-up forms.	BACKED UNBACKED

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 BACKED claim and one new UNBACKED claim that could be spoken during a school presentation.

BACKED _____

UNBACKED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one UNBACKED item and rewrite it as a BACKED claim using clearly labeled hypothetical evidence; then explain why that evidence fits the claim.

ANSWER KEY

Back It Up

GRADE 12 · 12.1.S.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Add a late bus: 46 students signed a request for one last week.	**BACKED**	The count of students requesting a late bus supports demand for it.
2	We should start classes later because students would prefer it.	**UNBACKED**	The speaker gives no evidence of student preferences.
3	Put plants in every classroom because it is obviously a smart idea.	**UNBACKED**	Calling the idea smart does not provide evidence.
4	Keep the library open on Saturdays: 82 of 120 students surveyed said weekday hours block their visits.	**BACKED**	The survey result supports a need for hours outside weekdays.
5	Add water refill stations: on Friday, the custodian counted 310 empty plastic bottles in hallway bins.	**BACKED**	The bottle count is a relevant observation about demand for drinking water and plastic waste.
6	Offer a quiet lunch area: 38 students asked for a quieter place in last month's school survey.	**BACKED**	The survey count shows that students requested a quieter space.
7	Serve more soup at lunch: last week, our soccer team won three games.	**UNBACKED**	The game results do not support the claim about soup.
8	Create a peer tutoring hour: last term, 64 students requested algebra help on tutoring sign-up forms.	**BACKED**	The sign-up forms show a need for tutoring.

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)

- **BACKED**: Offer a morning study room: in a hypothetical student poll, 52 of 80 respondents said they need a quiet place before classes.
- **UNBACKED**: The school should repaint the gym because it would be better.

Challenge: We should start classes later: in a hypothetical survey of 200 students, 146 said they would prefer a later start. Those responses directly show student preference for the change.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify whether an item gives specific evidence relevant to its claim. Item 7 includes a fact, but that fact is unrelated to the proposal.