Evidence or Slant?

Sort claims about a fictional town's past.

6-8.RH.8 "Distinguish among fact, opinion, bias, and reasoned judgment in a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

BIAS

A biased opinion pushes one side with loaded words instead of explaining the evidence. It may insult people who disagree.

The emperor's absurd hat decree proves he was a complete fool.

REASONED JUDGMENT

A reasoned judgment is an opinion supported by a stated fact. It explains how that fact leads to a conclusion.

Ship logs list several foggy mornings, so poor visibility may have slowed the voyage.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle BIAS or REASONED for each statement, then choose two item numbers and explain how you knew.

1.	1. The council's school plan was a disgrace, and anyone who liked it was clueless.	BIAS REASONED
2.	2. Records show 60 residents used the reading room each week, so keeping it open likely helped the town.	BIAS REASONED
3.	3. Meeting notes list three broken wells, so repairing the wells likely addressed a real need.	BIAS REASONED
4.	4. Only fools opposed the town's new bridge.	BIAS REASONED
5.	5. The mayor's market rules were obviously rotten, and their supporters were selfish.	BIAS REASONED
6.	6. A census counted 120 families near the mill, so a nearby footpath likely helped many households.	BIAS REASONED
7.	7. Receipts show the clinic bought twice as much medicine that year, suggesting it prepared to treat more patients.	BIAS REASONED
8.	8. After the town planted trees along the road, a report recorded more shade there, so the planting likely made the road cooler.	BIAS REASONED

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 BIAS statement and one new REASONED judgment about a fictional town decision; include a fact and explain what it suggests in your reasoned judgment.

BIAS _____

REASONED _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite item 4 as a REASONED judgment using both facts: 40 people signed a petition for a new bridge, and council minutes record a flood at the old crossing.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence or Slant?

GRADES 6-8 · 6-8.RH.8

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. The council's school plan was a disgrace, and anyone who liked it was clueless.	**BIAS**	Insults replace evidence about the plan.
2	2. Records show 60 residents used the reading room each week, so keeping it open likely helped the town.	**REASONED**	A usage record supports the conclusion.
3	3. Meeting notes list three broken wells, so repairing the wells likely addressed a real need.	**REASONED**	The recorded damage supports the judgment about repairs.
4	4. Only fools opposed the town's new bridge.	**BIAS**	The statement dismisses opponents without giving evidence.
5	5. The mayor's market rules were obviously rotten, and their supporters were selfish.	**BIAS**	Loaded words and an insult take the place of reasons.
6	6. A census counted 120 families near the mill, so a nearby footpath likely helped many households.	**REASONED**	The family count supports a cautious conclusion about the footpath.
7	7. Receipts show the clinic bought twice as much medicine that year, suggesting it prepared to treat more patients.	**REASONED**	Purchase records support the suggested explanation.
8	8. After the town planted trees along the road, a report recorded more shade there, so the planting likely made the road cooler.	**REASONED**	The report of increased shade supports the conclusion.

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)

- **BIAS**: Only an idiot would support the town's awful fountain.
- **REASONED**: Town records show that 30 families used the public garden each week, so keeping it open probably helped residents.

Challenge: Council minutes record a flood at the old crossing, and 40 people signed a petition for a new bridge, so building it may have addressed a safety concern.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify loaded language or missing evidence in a BIAS item, or a stated fact and its connection to a conclusion in a REASONED item. In the challenge, the judgment must use both supplied facts without claiming they prove the bridge was safe.