

# Claim Checkers

Examine evidence, expertise, and opinion in three sources.

**6.12.H.i** “reliability, credibility, and bias; and”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline details that let you check a claim or judge a source's credibility. Circle words or phrases that show possible bias.

### Claims About Riverton Water

- ① When the town of Riverton planned to replace old drinking-water pipes, residents saw different claims online. A post from the Riverton Water Department stated that its annual tests met state safety rules. The post linked to a dated testing report, listed the laboratory that analyzed samples, and gave a phone number for questions. These details help readers check the claim. Still, the department manages the water system, so readers should look for information from other qualified sources too.
- ② A neighborhood group shared a flyer saying, “Our water is poison, and officials do not care!” The flyer did not name an author, cite test results, or explain where its information came from. Its angry words may show bias, meaning a strong opinion that shapes how information is presented. The flyer could raise a useful question, but it is not enough evidence to prove that the water is unsafe. Readers need evidence they can trace and examine.
- ③ At a public meeting, a university environmental scientist explained how lead can enter water from some older pipes. She described a study method, showed the date of the study, and answered questions about its limits. Her information is credible because she has relevant training and explains her evidence. However, even a credible source can make mistakes or use incomplete data. Comparing her findings with current reports from an independent laboratory would make a conclusion more reliable.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which details in the Water Department post help readers check its claim?

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2 Why should readers seek other qualified sources in addition to the Water Department post?

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3 What phrase in the neighborhood flyer shows possible bias, and why?

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4 Why does the passage describe the university environmental scientist as credible? Give two reasons.

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## 3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine you see a video claiming that soil at a local park is dangerous. Write 2 or 3 sentences explaining what details you would check to judge the claim's reliability and credibility, and name one kind of biased language you would watch for.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline details that let you check a claim or judge a source's credibility. Circle words or phrases that show possible bias. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                            | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                     |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Which details in the Water Department post help readers check its claim?                            | <b>It links to a dated testing report, names the laboratory that analyzed samples, and provides a phone number for questions.</b>                          |
| 2 | Why should readers seek other qualified sources in addition to the Water Department post?           | <b>The department manages the water system, so readers should compare its claim with other qualified sources.</b>                                          |
| 3 | What phrase in the neighborhood flyer shows possible bias, and why?                                 | <b>"Our water is poison, and officials do not care!" It uses angry, absolute language instead of traceable evidence.</b>                                   |
| 4 | Why does the passage describe the university environmental scientist as credible? Give two reasons. | <b>She has relevant training and explains her evidence. She also describes the study method, gives the study date, and answers questions about limits.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

I would check whether the video names its creator, links to recent soil-test results, and explains who tested the soil. I would watch for loaded claims such as "the park is a toxic disaster," then compare the video with a report from a qualified environmental agency or laboratory.

Accept responses that identify checkable evidence, such as an author, date, method, test results, or qualified expert, and explain why it matters. Students should also identify loaded, absolute, or emotional wording as a possible sign of bias.