

Security Under Debate

Compare competing arguments about a landmark New Deal law.

12.RI.3 "Integration of Concepts Evaluate texts with differing points of view on the same or similar events or issues by assessing claims, reasoning, evidence, and connections to other works or historical events..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each text's main claim and circle the evidence or reasoning used to support it. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside the passage's major stages of analysis to show its organization.

Arguing Over Social Security

- ① During the Great Depression, unemployment and old-age poverty exposed the limits of private savings and local relief. In 1935, Congress passed the Social Security Act, creating old-age insurance, unemployment compensation, and several assistance programs. Two contemporary texts interpreted this response differently. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's January message to Congress presented federal action as a safeguard against economic hazards. A pamphlet from the American Liberty League, an organization that opposed many New Deal policies, warned that the plan would enlarge federal power. This analysis first considers Roosevelt's case, then the League's objection, and finally compares their evidence and historical connections.
- ② Roosevelt begins with the claim that government should provide "security against the hazards and vicissitudes of life." His reasoning moves from the Depression's widespread job loss to a national insurance system funded partly through payroll contributions. Rather than promising to end poverty, he presents regular contributions as a way for workers and employers to share risk. His strongest support is the recent crisis itself: local charities and family savings had failed many people when jobs disappeared. By connecting the proposal to insurance, not charity, Roosevelt also answers critics who might portray aid as dependence.
- ③ The League organizes its pamphlet differently. It opens by warning that federal administration would threaten individual liberty, then treats payroll taxes as proof that the law would burden business and workers. Its reasoning assumes economic recovery depends chiefly on private enterprise, so it predicts national programs will discourage initiative. The taxes are concrete evidence of a cost, but the prediction about initiative is a forecast, not evidence that the law had already caused harm. The disagreement echoes an older debate over federal versus local responsibility. Later Social Security expansions show Roosevelt's program became a lasting institution, although they do not by themselves settle the League's concern about federal power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What claim does each source make about federal social insurance, and how do the sources' central reasons differ?

2 What concrete support does the passage identify for each source, and what distinction does the author make between the League's two kinds of support?

3 How does the author organize the analysis, and how does that order help the reader evaluate the disagreement?

4 What historical connection does the passage draw after comparing the sources, and what does that connection show?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two credible texts that take differing positions on a current public issue. In 120 to 150 words, compare their claims, reasoning, and evidence, connect the issue to a historical event or work, and state how you will order your analysis.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each text's main claim and circle the evidence or reasoning used to support it. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside the passage's major stages of analysis to show its organization. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What claim does each source make about federal social insurance, and how do the sources' central reasons differ?	Roosevelt claims federal insurance should protect people from economic hazards, using Depression hardship and shared risk as reasons. The League claims the plan threatens liberty and burdens people, reasoning that private enterprise drives recovery.
2	What concrete support does the passage identify for each source, and what distinction does the author make between the League's two kinds of support?	Roosevelt points to the failure of local charities and family savings during job loss. The League points to payroll taxes as a concrete cost, but its claim that programs will discourage initiative is a prediction rather than proof of harm.
3	How does the author organize the analysis, and how does that order help the reader evaluate the disagreement?	The author gives historical context, examines Roosevelt's case, then presents and evaluates the League's objection. This order lets the reader compare each source's claim, reasoning, and evidence.
4	What historical connection does the passage draw after comparing the sources, and what does that connection show?	It connects the dispute to the long debate over federal versus local responsibility and to later Social Security expansions. The connection shows that Social Security became lasting policy but does not by itself resolve concerns about federal power.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My analysis will compare the Economic Policy Institute's 2021 support for the Raise the Wage Act with the National Restaurant Association's opposition. I will begin by explaining EPI's claim that a higher federal minimum wage would raise pay for low-wage workers. Its reasoning emphasizes workers' purchasing power and uses wage data. Next, I will examine the association's claim that a \$15 requirement could force restaurants to cut jobs or hours. It reasons from narrow profit margins and cites business costs, but its prediction depends on what employers will do. I will then connect both arguments to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, which established the federal minimum wage. That history shows that wage policy has long balanced worker protections against employers' cost concerns.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the claims, reasoning, evidence, and organizational sequence when they are supported by the passage. For the open task, accept varied issues and source choices if the response compares differing viewpoints, assesses support, includes a meaningful connection, and follows the stated word range.