

Evidence Table Talk

Build a strong text-based conclusion, one move at a time.

GRADE 8 • 8.DSR.C

8.DSR.C "When responding to text through discussion and/or writing, draw several pieces of evidence from grade-level complex texts to support claims, conclusions, and inferences..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Use a class text your group has already read.

2 Use details from the text, not only opinions or memory.

3 Name where each detail appears, such as a page, paragraph, chapter, or scene.

4 Play a card only after you genuinely use its sentence starter.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Choose one Topic card and put the class text or your text notes where everyone can use them.
2. Each player takes one Role card. If three people play, set one Role card aside.
3. Shuffle the Move cards, using repeated card sheets as needed, and deal four cards to each player.
4. Take turns building an answer to the Topic question. Use a starter from one card, then place that card in the middle.
5. The round ends when every player has played all four cards. Check the reflection statements together.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I made or helped shape a clear claim, conclusion, or inference.

☐ I used several relevant details from the text.

☐ I quoted accurately or clearly paraphrased a detail.

☐ I identified where relevant evidence appears in the text.

**TOPIC CARDS** · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Narrator Lens Choose a class text your group has already read. What conclusion can you make about whether its narrator is trustworthy? Support your conclusion with several accurately quoted or paraphrased details, and identify where each detail appears.	Choice Consequences Choose an important decision in a class text your group has already read. What claim can you make about why the decision matters? Support your claim with several accurately quoted or paraphrased details, and identify where each detail appears.	Theme Thread Choose a class text your group has already read. What theme does the text develop? Use several accurately quoted or paraphrased details from different parts of the text, and identify where each detail appears.

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Location Scout Listen for every piece of evidence and ask the speaker to name where it appears in the text.	Quote Guard Check that quoted words match the text and that paraphrases are stated in the speaker's own words.	Claim Coach Listen for a clear claim or inference and ask how each detail supports it.	Turn Tracker Watch who has spoken and invite a quieter player to use a card before anyone takes an extra turn.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD BUILD A CLAIM “My claim or inference is that ____ because ____.”	MOVE CARD TRACE EVIDENCE “In ____, when ____, the text shows ____.”	MOVE CARD TRACE EVIDENCE “In ____, when ____, the text shows ____.”	MOVE CARD QUOTE PRECISELY “The words “____” in ____ support ____.”
MOVE CARD QUOTE PRECISELY “The words “____” in ____ support ____.”	MOVE CARD PARAPHRASE CLEARLY “In my own words, the part in ____ means ____.”	MOVE CARD EXPLAIN MEANING “These details matter because they suggest ____.”	MOVE CARD ADD EVIDENCE “Another detail from ____ is ____, and it strengthens ____.”

Print one card sheet per team. Cards last longer on thick paper.

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print two Move-card sheets per group, deal four cards to each student, and set aside any extras. Give groups access to a previously read grade-level text or reliable class notes so they can verify quotations and locations. For uneven participation, have the Turn Tracker pause the discussion after two cards from one student until each other player has played a card.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Mia	My claim or inference is that the narrator of "The Tell-Tale Heart" is not trustworthy because he cannot judge reality clearly.
Noah	The words "How, then, am I mad?" in the opening paragraph support the idea that he is trying to convince the reader that he is sane.
Ava	The words "You should have seen how wisely I proceeded" in the paragraph about his nightly visits support the idea that he believes careful planning proves he is sane.
Leo	Another detail from the final confession is that he admits the murder after he thinks he hears the dead man's heart, and it strengthens the claim that he cannot judge reality clearly.
Mia	These details matter because they suggest that the narrator treats his own frightening thoughts and actions as proof that he is sane.

LISTEN FOR

- a specific claim, conclusion, or inference instead of a summary
- three or more relevant details that work together
- accurate quotation or a clearly separate paraphrase
- specific evidence locations and explanations of how details support the claim

There are no right answers to the topic cards. Score the moves students make, not their opinions.