Claim or Proof?

Sort opinions that need support from facts that can support them.

8.W "The student will compose various works for diverse audiences and purposes, linked to grade eight content and texts. Modes and Purposes for Writing Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or to alter an existing text..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLAIM

A claim states a position, judgment, or idea that someone could debate. A writer must support a claim with reasons and evidence.

The town should plant more shade trees in its parks.

EVIDENCE

Evidence is a fact, detail, example, quotation, or data point that can support a claim. Strong evidence can be checked in a reliable source.

The U.S. Forest Service explains that tree shade can lower surface temperatures.

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1 SORT: Circle the label that fits each statement; Part 2 PROVE IT: Choose two items and explain what makes each one a claim or evidence.

1.	Our school should add a daily reading period.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
2.	Teens ages 14 through 17 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night, according to the National Sleep Foundation.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
3.	The CDC reports that regular physical activity can improve students' concentration and academic performance.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
4.	The city library should stay open later on weekends.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
5.	Cafeterias should offer a meatless lunch choice every day.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
6.	At standard atmospheric pressure, water freezes at 0°C, or 32°F.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
7.	Students should have a quiet study space during lunch.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
8.	The school should provide covered bike racks.	CLAIM EVIDENCE

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

Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new claim and one new piece of evidence.

CLAIM _____

EVIDENCE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a claim about a school change, then write two relevant evidence statements from credible sources that support it.

Claim or Proof?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Our school should add a daily reading period.	**CLAIM**	This is a debatable recommendation that needs support.
2	Teens ages 14 through 17 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night, according to the National Sleep Foundation.	**EVIDENCE**	This is a checkable fact from a named source.
3	The CDC reports that regular physical activity can improve students' concentration and academic performance.	**EVIDENCE**	This is a sourced fact that could support a claim about activity.
4	The city library should stay open later on weekends.	**CLAIM**	This states a position about what the library should do.
5	Cafeterias should offer a meatless lunch choice every day.	**CLAIM**	This is a recommendation that requires supporting reasons and facts.
6	At standard atmospheric pressure, water freezes at 0°C, or 32°F.	**EVIDENCE**	This is a verifiable scientific fact.
7	Students should have a quiet study space during lunch.	**CLAIM**	This is a debatable proposal.
8	The school should provide covered bike racks.	**CLAIM**	This is a recommendation, not proof for the recommendation.

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)

- **CLAIM**: The school should install more water fountains.
- **EVIDENCE**: In regulation basketball, each team has five players on the court.

Challenge: Claim: Schools should make drinking water easy to reach during lunch. Evidence 1: The U.S. Department of Agriculture requires schools in the National School Lunch Program to make free potable water available during meal service. Evidence 2: The CDC states that drinking water can help prevent dehydration.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a claim as a debatable position and evidence as checkable support. For the challenge, check that both evidence statements relate logically to the claim and name credible sources.