

Evidence or Conclusion

Sort checkable facts from evidence-based judgments.

9.RI.1.C "Distinguish among, facts, reasoned judgments, and/or speculation in texts to determine where a position/argument is to be confirmed, disproved, or modified."

NAME _____

DATE _____

FACT

A fact is a statement that can be checked using reliable sources, records, or direct evidence.

The human heart has four chambers.

REASONED JUDGMENT

A reasoned judgment is a conclusion based on facts or evidence. It can be supported, challenged, or changed when new evidence appears.

Because the school recorded fewer late arrivals after the schedule changed, the new start time seems effective.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each statement, circle FACT or JUDGMENT, then choose two items and explain which words or evidence helped you sort them.

1. The first Earth Day took place on April 22, 1970.

FACT

JUDGMENT

2. Because global temperatures have risen over many decades, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is necessary.

FACT

JUDGMENT

3. A triangle has three sides.

FACT

JUDGMENT

4. The United States Constitution has seven articles.

FACT

JUDGMENT

5. Because the inspection found cracked beams, the bridge should be repaired before winter.

FACT

JUDGMENT

6. Water freezes at 0°C, or 32°F, at standard atmospheric pressure.

FACT

JUDGMENT

7. Because three eyewitness accounts agree, the timeline is probably accurate.

FACT

JUDGMENT

8. The Pacific Ocean is larger than the Atlantic Ocean.

FACT

JUDGMENT

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 FACT and one new JUDGMENT. Make sure your judgment includes a reason or piece of evidence.

FACT _____

JUDGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences, first a FACT and then a JUDGMENT based on that fact. Label each sentence.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The first Earth Day took place on April 22, 1970.	FACT	This date can be verified in reliable historical sources.
2	Because global temperatures have risen over many decades, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is necessary.	JUDGMENT	This conclusion uses evidence about temperature trends to make a claim about action.
3	A triangle has three sides.	FACT	This is a checkable definition in geometry.
4	The United States Constitution has seven articles.	FACT	The number of articles can be verified by reading the document.
5	Because the inspection found cracked beams, the bridge should be repaired before winter.	JUDGMENT	The statement draws a conclusion about what should happen based on inspection evidence.
6	Water freezes at 0°C, or 32°F, at standard atmospheric pressure.	FACT	This scientific property can be tested and verified.
7	Because three eyewitness accounts agree, the timeline is probably accurate.	JUDGMENT	The statement reaches a probable conclusion from evidence.
8	The Pacific Ocean is larger than the Atlantic Ocean.	FACT	This comparison can be verified using geographic measurements.

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)

- **FACT:** Venus is the second planet from the Sun.
- **JUDGMENT:** Because the town's water tests met safety standards for six months, the water supply appears safe.

Challenge: **FACT:** A leap year has 366 days. **JUDGMENT:** Because its extra day changes the calendar, people should check dates carefully during a leap year.

For Part 2, students should identify checkable information for a fact or the evidence and conclusion in a judgment. Accept varied Part 3 responses when the fact is verifiable and the judgment clearly draws a conclusion from evidence.