

6th Grade ELA  
Lesson: April 9

**Learning Targets:**

- **Identify the author's claim and evidence for the claim.**
- **Distinguish between claims that are supported by evidence and those that are not.**
- **Evaluate evidence for how well it supports a claim.**

## Warm Up:

Today, we are going to be talking about claims, evidence, and reasoning (if you are unfamiliar with these terms, look at the next slide for explanation).

Please watch this [Youtube video for a car commercial.](#)

Answer the following questions on a notebook piece of paper:

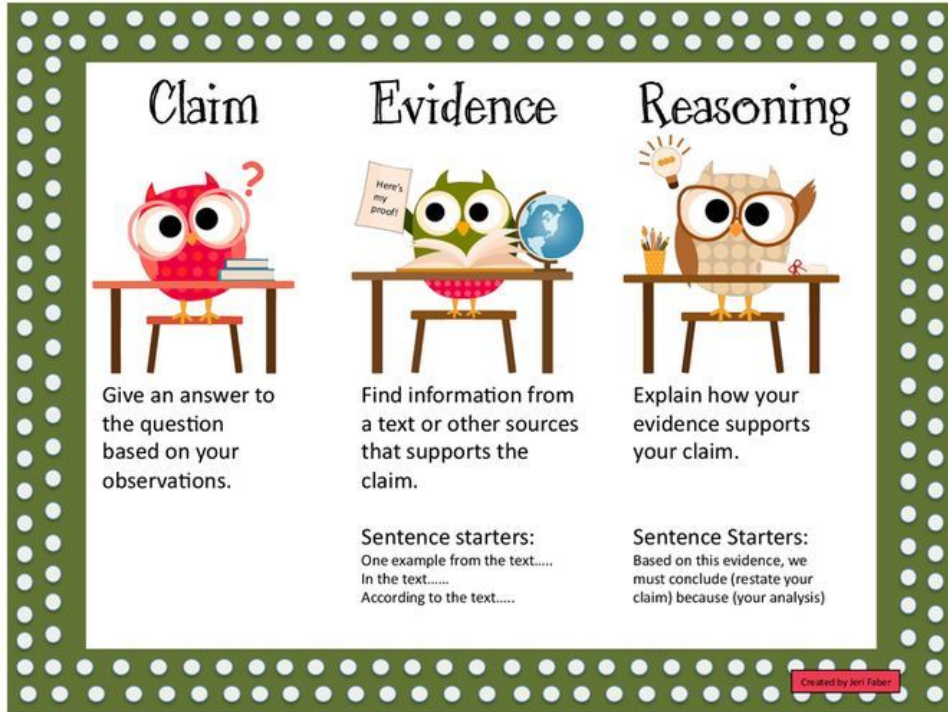
1. What is the child's claim in this commercial?
2. What is her evidence?
3. Is her evidence convincing to you? Why or why not?

# Warm Up Answers:

1. Her claim is her dad is a space alien.
2. Her evidence is he speaks a weird language, he drinks green stuff, he says he is from Albuquerque (a city in New Mexico), and he has a spaceship.
3. Her evidence is not very convincing because all of the reasoning she gave are normal things that people have/do. When she says he speaks a weird language, he is gargling water. When she says he drinks green stuff, she is referring to his green smoothie with vegetables. When she says he has a spaceship, she is referring to his brand new car with a lot of new technology.

Overall, her reasoning was not very convincing and did not support her claim well. She is a young child and sometimes young children may think something is what it is not.

# Teaching:



**Claim:** a statement that answers the question. It will usually only be one sentence in length. The claim does not include any explanation, reasoning, or evidence so it should not include any transition words such as "because."

**Evidence:** the data used to support the claim. It can be information from the text or other sources that helps support your position.

**Reasoning:** The reasoning is the explanation of "why and how" the evidence supports the claim

# Teaching:

Watch this [Youtube video](#) to help you understand more about how to write a good claim!



## Scaffolded Practice:

Click on this link to watch a video: [A Pen](#)

Which statement below is the claim in the commercial?

Titus is a pen you can trust.

**OR**

You need a good pen if you are going to do be able to finish your assignment.

What happens in the commercial that supports this claim?

## Answer Key

Claim - Titus is a pen you can trust

Evidence - one girl's pen worked and the other girl's pen didn't. The first girl gave her pen to the second girl who was able to use it to finish her assignment. She gave it to the boy so he could finish his assignment. This pen always worked so it's one that can be trusted.

## Scaffolded Practice:

Click on this link to watch a video: [Kindness](#)

Which statement is the claim in the commercial?

When someone is kind they bring happiness to others which makes them happy too.

**OR**

It is silly to give your time and money away to others because it won't make you rich.

What happens in the commercial that supports this claim?



## Answer Key

Claim - When someone is kind they bring happiness to others which makes them happy too.

Evidence - The man was kind to others. He watered the plant, fed the dog, helped the woman with her food cart, gave food to the neighbor, and gave money to the homeless girl. The dog and the lady with the food cart became his friends. The lady started being kind to others too. The little girl was able to go to school. The plant grew healthy. All these things made the man happy.

## Practice:

Click the link to the side and read the article about sugar. Have a piece of notebook paper handy and answer the following questions.

[Sugar Added Article](#)

1. What do you think the author's claim is?
2. What evidence do they use for supporting that claim? (List 3)

## Answer Key:

1. The author's claim is that we do not always know how much sugar is in food. We consume so much sugar without even knowing it.

2. **(Examples may vary)**

Corn is an easy crop to grow and it's fairly cheap so producers use high fructose corn syrup for a sweetener in many types of foods.

If it's possible, try to eat "whole foods" to avoid extra sugar. Whole foods are foods that are fresh and have few added ingredients.

When you are consuming a drink, think about the amount of sugar that is in it and ask yourself, "Is this more than just sugar I'm consuming? Is it good for me?"

Read this slide to review what you've learned. Then, complete the final practice activity on the next slide.

Now that we know claims, reasons AND evidence, we can do more than just find the opinions and facts.

Main opinion = **CLAIM**

This opinion helps to prove WHY the the main claim is true = **Reason**

FACT that supports and explains the reason = **Evidence**

More **reasons** that support and help prove WHY the the main claim is true!

Year-round school is not a good idea. Year-round school changes students' summer schedule. For example, some year-round schools have a 60/15 calendar where they're in school for 60 days, then out of school for 15 days. This same schedule repeats all year long, which means no summer vacation. Students need a long break from all the stress of tests, quizzes, homework, and studying. We deserve a summer to take time off from school and recharge our batteries. Summer is to be enjoyed, not spent in a classroom.

A **claim** is proven by clear **reasons** that are supported by relevant **evidence**.

**Directions: Read the paragraph and answer 3 questions.**

### **KC Chiefs**

Patrick Mahomes is a talented quarterback. He has saved the Chiefs in many crucial games. Patrick gives back to his community and cares about his fans. Finally, Mr. Mahomes helped the KC Chiefs win their first Super Bowl in 50 years! Because of these accomplishments, it is easy to see that Patrick Mahomes is a very caring and talented quarterback.



### **Questions:**

- 1) What is the claim in this paragraph?
- 2) What evidence is used to support this claim?
- 3) What sentence shows the reasoning in this paragraph?

## **Answer Key:**

- 1) **Patrick Mahomes is a talented quarterback.**
- 2) **“He has saved the Chiefs in many crucial games. Patrick gives back to his community and cares about his fans. Finally, Mr.Mahomes helped the KC Chiefs win their first Super Bowl in 50 years!”**
- 3) **Because of these accomplishments, it is easy to see that Patrick Mahomes is a very caring and talented quarterback.**

# Additional Practice/Resources:

1. Author's Argument Jeopardy.

- Argument Jeopardy
- Author's Argument

2. Help a community while building arguments and finding evidence.

- Quandary - play as a guest