

CLAIM TESTING – WHAT ARE THE CLAIM TESTERS?

Preparation

- Print and cut out the Claim Testers and Supporting Statement Cards

Purpose

Claim testing is one of the essential practices that you will develop in BHP. Claim testing helps people decide what to believe, and it also helps them become more skillful in evaluating the claims of others. Learning to use claim testers will enable you to support your own claims when writing and speaking. In this activity, you will categorize supporting statements into the four claim tester types as a way to begin understanding the different ways in which claims can be supported.



Practices

Reading, writing

Being well-versed in claim testing will help you be a critical consumer of what you read. If you use claim testers to construct essays, your speaking and writing skills will improve.

Process

You've probably watched the video, *How Do We Decide What to Believe?* before starting this activity. If not, hit the pause button, and watch the video before kicking off this activity!

Okay, now you've watched it! Remember the claim testers that were introduced in that video? If not, look at the claim testing poster on the wall, and get ready to review each claim tester as a class.

Now, let's practice testing a claim. The claim you will test was once debated, then eventually came to be known as fact. However, in some circles—such as the group called “Flat Earthers”—the claim has become controversial again.

The claim: The Earth is round.

You are going to get a bunch of statements that support the claim, “The Earth is Round.” Your job will be to determine which statements match which claim tester. Before starting, think about the following example with your class:

“When looking at pictures that astronauts have taken of the Earth after landing on the Moon, the Earth appears round.”



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What claim tester do you think is being used here? Discuss your answer with the class.

Now that you've practiced as a class, get into groups and sort the cards into the four claim testing categories. Make sure to discuss your categorizations with the group— you will be asked to defend your categorizations at the end of the activity.

Keep in mind that you will be practicing claim testing ALL THE TIME in this class. You should refer to the poster on the wall and use the language of claim testing whenever possible.