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| Name: |  | Date: |  |

## Preparation

* Download “[Village Networks](https://www.oerproject.com/OER-Materials/OER-Media/PDFs/Origins/Era3/Village-Networks)”

## Purpose

You will be practicing claim testing throughout the course—and in everyday life. At times, you’ll find that using one claim tester will be sufficient for determining a claim’s validity. In other instances, you’ll need to use multiple claim testers. Up to this point in the course, you’ve learned about the claim testers in general, and about authority specifically. In order to develop as writers, readers, and speakers, you’ll need to be able to use evidence to prove your claims and assertions. Evidence is often considered the most important claim tester because it relies largely on factual information, research, and data. Not only will using evidence help you prove your own claims, it will also help you determine what to believe in the writing of others. By applying multiple claim testers at the same time, you’ll be able to determine if evidence is being proposed by a credible authority, and then be able to use it to further your claims.

## Practices

***Reading, writing***

In this activity, you’ll read “Village Networks” to identify the major claim or claims and evidence used in the article. You’ll also analyze the strength of evidence, which will increase your awareness of how to incorporate strong evidence in your own writing.

## Process

Evidence is information that we can gather to understand the world around us—specifically things that we can see and observe. You’re going to read “Village Networks,” by Eman Elshaikh, to see how the author uses evidence to support her claims. Remember, evidence doesn’t mean a lot if you don’t have the claim it supports (or refutes) in mind, so as you read the article, focus on the claims that Elshaikh makes.

Once you’re done reading, highlight the claim or claims you find in the article. Be prepared to share your claims with the class.

Now that you’ve found the claims, it’s time to think about evidence. Is all evidence the same? Are some types of evidence better than others? As a class, brainstorm as many types of evidence people use in history as you can.

Now, read the article again, this time looking for and underlining the supporting statements or evidence being used to support the claim or claims.

Remember that there can also be arguments against a claim or evidence. So, as you underline the evidence, look out for counterclaims, or sections of the article where Eman Elshaikh refutes or questions the evidence for these claims. Circle any counterclaims you find. Again, be prepared to share your answers with the class.

Finally, answer the following questions on a piece of paper to submit as an exit ticket:

* Write a claim about which piece of evidence is strongest in supporting its claim and why.
* Write a claim about which piece of evidence would be easiest to refute and why.