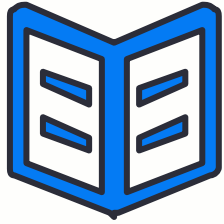


# **THE INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH**



# THE CLAIM

## DIRECTIONS

1. Read through the following sentences and determine if they are a statement or a claim.
2. Use the criteria for statements and claims to make your decision.
3. Sort your sentence strips into two piles (statements and claims).
4. If requested by your teacher, compare your results to other groups.

## CLAIM

A sentence that can be argued. Evidence can be found to prove (or disprove) the sentence.

The Hunger Games trilogy has more well-developed characters than the Harry Potter series.

If Cinderella's fairy godmother had not arrived to help her get ready for the ball, she never would have married Prince Charming.

The first book in the series became a best-selling novel.

Rold Gold Cone and Cone by the

Pretzels are better than potato chips.

# TWO CRUCIAL COMPONENTS TO UNDERSTAND



Understand  
what a claim  
**ACTUALLY IS**



Differentiate  
**BETWEEN**  
claims and  
statements

# HOW DO I UNDERSTAND THE CLAIM?

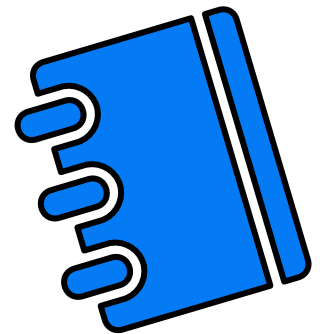
With a lot of **PRACTICE!**

By following our **GUIDE!**

# LET'S REVIEW...

## A CLAIM IS...

- used in response to a question or prompt the teacher provides
- a sentence that can be argued
- supported with logical reasons (premises)
- the last sentence of an introductory paragraph
- also known as a thesis statement



## LET'S START WITH AN EXAMPLE ...

Identify **WHAT** makes this a claim.

**Tacos are the best comfort food.**

This one is pretty obvious. There are plenty of other foods that people might think are the best to eat as a source of comfort.

This is very clearly a claim, and not a factual statement.

## LET'S START WITH AN EXAMPLE ...

Identify **WHAT** makes this a claim.

**Puff Cheetos are far better than Crunchy Cheetos.**

You could argue that there are other comparable cheese-like chips to compare to these name-brand ones.

“Far better” is clearly an opinion, not fact.

## LET'S START WITH AN EXAMPLE ...

Identify **WHAT** makes this a claim.

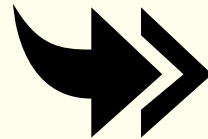
**Nick Allan, the protagonist in Andrew Clements's children's novel, *Frindle*, matures more than his classmates because of his fame.**

Even if students haven't read the novel *Frindle*, they could still clearly see that this is an opinion because of the use of the word "more." This insinuates a comparison between Nick and his classmates, and the author of this claim is picking a position.



# STUDENT HANDOUTS

- Two assignments
- Pre-Activity Handout
- Claims vs Statements Sort



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Before working through the claims vs. statements sort, let's make sure you really understand the difference between claims and statements. First, read through the definitions of each below. Then, look at the sentences below and review what makes one sentence a **claim** and one a **statement**.

## CLAIM

A sentence that can be argued.  
Evidence can be found to prove or disprove the sentence.

## STATEMENT

The act of stating or declaring.  
Something that is factual.



## CLAIM:

In "Sweet Feeling of Freedom," by April LoTempio, the narrator successfully escapes Alcatraz because he is smarter than the guards and people running the prison.

What makes this a claim?

- It's arguable. Not everyone would agree that their perseverance is demonstrated when they deal with failure in the story.
- It can be supported with evidence. Read through the paragraph below to see how this claim can be supported with evidence from the story itself.

## STATEMENT:

"Sweet Feeling of Freedom" by April LoTempio is about a man who successfully escapes Alcatraz by stealing a uniform.

What makes this a statement?

- It simply CANNOT be argued. One quick check of who wrote "Three Little Ninjas" and what it's about will prove the statement correct. End of story.



## Sample Paragraph Arguing the Claim:



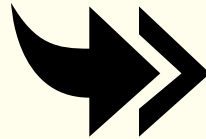
**Claim:** In "Sweet Feeling of Freedom," by April LoTempio, the narrator successfully escapes Alcatraz because he is smarter than the guards and people running the prison.

The narrator is smarter than the guards and the people running the prison because he carefully observes their behavior and uses it against them. For example, the narrator plans how he's going to acquire all the necessary pieces of a guard's uniform by watching them carefully, as he states, "I knew where they stood and what they looked at. I knew that when Big John was on guard at the laundry room door, I could slip a shirt out of a bag while he lit a cigarette. I knew that if the tall guy with the mustache walked me back to my cell, he would notice a bulge underneath my clothes, but the new guy wouldn't" (LoTempio 2). He makes observations of the guards, getting to know their patterns of behavior over time. This allows him to steal parts of the uniform he needs to look like one of them and escape unseen several months later, proving that the narrator is smarter than the guards and the people running the prison.

# STUDENT HANDOUTS

## Pre-Activity Handout

- Claim vs. Statement
- Reasons for Choices
- Sample Paragraph



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Before working through the claims vs. statements sort, let's make sure you really understand the difference between claims and statements. First, read through the definitions of each below. Then, look at the sentences below and review what makes one sentence a **claim** and one a **statement**.

### CLAIM

A sentence that can be argued.  
Evidence can be found to prove or disprove the sentence.

### STATEMENT

The act of stating or declaring.  
Something that is factual.



### CLAIM:

In "Sweet Feeling of Freedom," by April LoTempio, the narrator successfully escapes Alcatraz because he is smarter than the guards and people running the prison.

What makes this a claim?

- It's arguable. Not everyone would agree that their perseverance is demonstrated when they deal with failure in the story.
- It can be supported with evidence. Read through the paragraph below to see how this claim can be supported with evidence from the story itself.

### STATEMENT:

"Sweet Feeling of Freedom" by April LoTempio is about a man who successfully escapes Alcatraz by stealing a uniform.

What makes this a statement?

- It simply CANNOT be argued. One quick check of who wrote "Three Little Ninjas" and what it's about will prove the statement correct. End of story.



### Sample Paragraph Arguing the Claim:



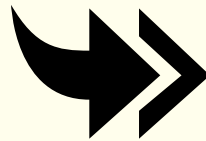
**Claim:** In "Sweet Feeling of Freedom," by April LoTempio, the narrator successfully escapes Alcatraz because he is smarter than the guards and people running the prison.

The narrator is smarter than the guards and the people running the prison because he carefully observes their behavior and uses it against them. For example, the narrator plans how he's going to acquire all the necessary pieces of a guard's uniform by watching them carefully, as he states, "I knew where they stood and what they looked at. I knew that when Big John was on guard at the laundry room door, I could slip a shirt out of a bag while he lit a cigarette. I knew that if the tall guy with the mustache walked me back to my cell, he would notice a bulge underneath my clothes, but the new guy wouldn't" (LoTempio 2). He makes observations of the guards, getting to know their patterns of behavior over time. This allows him to steal parts of the uniform he needs to look like one of them and escape unseen several months later, proving that the narrator is smarter than the guards and the people running the prison.

# STUDENT HANDOUTS

## Pre-Activity Handout

- Whole Group Practice
- Two Sentences
- Reasoning



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Now, it's your turn. Carefully examine the two sentences below and determine which one is a claim and which one is a statement. On the lines below each sentence explain your reasoning.



### CLAIM

A sentence that can be argued.  
Evidence can be found to prove or disprove the sentence.



### STATEMENT

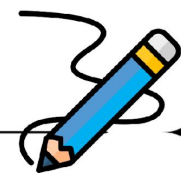
The act of stating or declaring.  
Something that is factual.

**"Moving Up" by April LoTempio tells the harrowing tale of a girl named May who stands up to bullies and looks out for the new kids at school.**

Large empty rectangular box for reasoning.

**In "Moving Up" by April LoTempio, no matter what the other students say about May's intentions on the night of the Moving Up Challenge, May demonstrates real bravery.**

Large empty rectangular box for reasoning.



CLAIMS VS STATEMENTS

# Claim vs. Statement Sort

## Claims vs. Statements Sort

### *instructions for use*

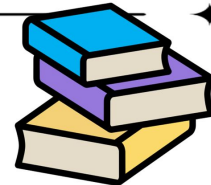
This activity is great practice for students as they differentiate between statements and claims. It's meant as a scaffolding activity to help students be more comfortable with understanding what a claim actually is before they write their own claims for argumentative essays and responses to literature. In addition, this resource can be used for students who are struggling with claims even after learning about them. This resource includes definitions for both terms, student directions, sentence strips, and an answer key. It is ideal for language arts centers, early finishers, an interactive mini lesson, etc.

This resource takes very little prep before use in the classroom. Simply print out the number of copies you need of the student directions, sentence strips, and answer key. Cut the sentence strips on the dotted lines before student use. (If you want to use this activity multiple times with different classes or over multiple years, we suggest laminating the directions, sentence strips, and answer key.)

## Claim vs. Statement Sort

### directions

1. Read through the following sentence strips and determine if they are a statement or a claim / thesis.
2. Use the criteria for statements and claims to help you make your decision.
3. Sort your sentence strips into two piles (statements and claims).
4. If requested by your teacher, complete the student handout that asks you to justify your reasoning.
5. Check with your teacher for the correct answers.



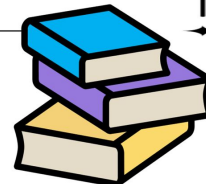
## Claim vs. Statement Sort

### STATEMENT

The act of stating or declaring.  
Something that is factual.

### CLAIM

A sentence that can be argued.  
Evidence can be found to prove  
(or disprove) the sentence.



# Claim vs. Statement Sort

CLAIMS VS STATEMENTS SORT

Esperanza Rising has a more relatable protagonist than *The House on Mango Street*.

Mac is only able to realize his full potential as a member of the pack because of his wise advisor, Chase.

*New Kid* by Jerry Craft won the Newbery Medal in 2020.

Alexander T. Wolf is "The Big Bad Wolf" narrator of the story, *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs*.

Tacos are the best comfort food.

Level E | ©EB Academic Camps, LLC

# Claim vs. Statement Sort

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** After sorting each of the claims and statements, choose three of each (three claims and three statements) to justify your reasoning. For example, if you thought card #1 was a statement, on the line below, write the card number, circle what you sorted it as, and then your reasoning why.

**Claim or Statement**

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

My reasoning why: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Claim or Statement**

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

My reasoning why: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Claim or Statement**

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

My reasoning why: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Claim or Statement**

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

My reasoning why: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Claim or Statement**

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

My reasoning why: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CLAIMS VS STATEMENTS SORT





**WHERE YOU  
MIGHT GET STUCK**



# TRANSITION FROM SUMMARY TO CLAIM

Michelle Carter's short story, "Ghostly Encounter," tells the story of Max, a 13-year-old boy who is very excited to stay home alone for the first time. At first, Max is having the time of his life, chowing down on snacks and enjoying uninterrupted video game time. Even though it may seem like Max is ready to be home alone for a few hours, ultimately, he is still too young to be staying home by himself.



# TRANSITION FROM SUMMARY TO CLAIM

Michelle Carter's short story, "Ghostly Encounter," tells the story of Max, a 13-year-old boy who is very excited to stay home alone for the first time. At first, Max is having the time of his life, chowing down on snacks and enjoying uninterrupted video game time. **Then, when it's time to go to bed, a thunderstorm rolls in and Max starts experiencing strange and frightening things in the house.** It may seem like Max is ready to be home alone for a few hours, but he is still too young to be staying home by himself.



# TRANSITION FROM SUMMARY TO CLAIM

Michelle Carter's short story, "Ghostly Encounter," tells the story of Max, a 13-year-old boy who is very excited to stay home alone for the first time. At first, Max is having the time of his life, chowing down on snacks and enjoying uninterrupted video game time. **Then, when it's time to go to bed, a thunderstorm rolls in and Max starts experiencing strange and frightening things in the house. Even though** it may seem like Max is ready to be home alone for a few hours, **ultimately**, he is still too young to be staying home by himself.



# TRANSITION FROM SUMMARY TO CLAIM

- Advanced concept
- “Segue Sentence” needed
- Transition
- Takes a lot of practice!

PRACTICE

**THE CONCEPT!**