

CLAIM TESTING: INTRODUCTION

Purpose

Claims are statements that people make about something they believe to be true or that they want you to believe to be true. So, what is claim testing and what are claim testers? You'll figure that out, and then you'll decide if you agree or disagree with a series of claims.

Key information

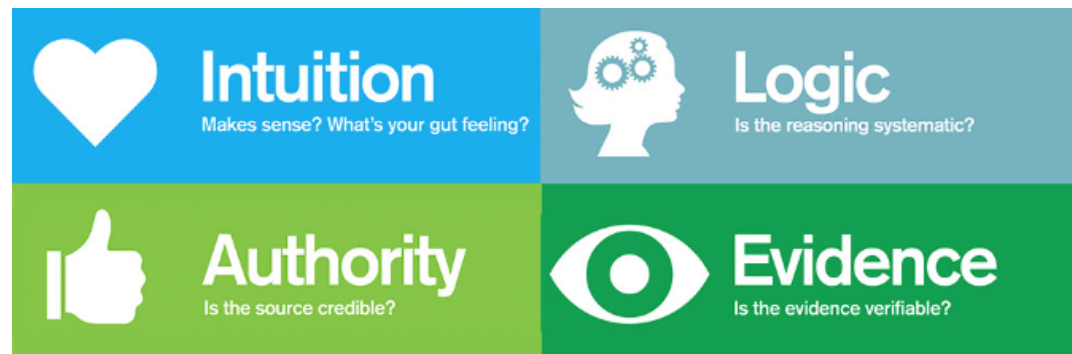
Claim testers include:

- **Intuition**—Having a gut feeling, such as when the support for a claim just “seems” right.
- **Logic**—Carefully thinking about a claim to see if it makes sense.
- **Authority**—Accepting a claim from a credible (believable) and trustworthy source.
- **Evidence**—Gathering verified information, such as data, examples, or expert testimony, that supports the claim (for example, when we test a hypothesis in science class).

Process

1. Read this description of claim testers and then answer the questions that follow:

There are four different ways we test claims in the World History Project course. We call these four methods *claim testers*. *Claims* are statements that people make about something they believe to be true or that they want you to believe to be true.



CLAIM TESTING: INTRODUCTION

- Which of the claim testers do you think you use the most in your life? Why?

- Which of the claim testers do you think is the most important to use when you're trying to decide if a claim is true or false? Why?

2. Review each claim in the table below and decide if you agree or disagree. Then, write a one-sentence explanation for why you either agreed or disagreed with the claim, and state which claim tester you used to make your decision.

CLAIM TESTING: INTRODUCTION

Claim	Circle one	Why? Which claim tester did you use?
The study of history relies on analyzing primary and secondary sources to understand past events and perspectives.	Agree Disagree	
History is a fixed and unchanging record of what happened in the past.	Agree Disagree	
Historical events always have a single cause and a clear effect.	Agree Disagree	
Historians often reinterpret past events as new evidence is discovered or as societal values change.	Agree Disagree	

CLAIM TESTING: INTRODUCTION

Claim	Circle one	Why? Which claim tester did you use?
The study of history is purely about memorizing dates and facts rather than understanding broader themes and connections.	Agree Disagree	

3. If you can, share your responses with a partner, friend, or the class. Choose one claim you disagreed about. What would make you change your mind about your answer? Why?