

CLAIM TESTING: GLOBAL CONFLICT (GROUP ACTIVITY)

Purpose

Use your knowledge of claim testing to write supporting statements for claims, and then craft counterclaims. Then, strengthen both your writing and claim-testing skills by choosing one claim and writing a paragraph.

Process

1. Your teacher will divide you into groups and give you a set of Claim Cards with four different claims about global conflict. Your teacher will walk you through the steps below:

Round 1

- Grab one Claim Card from the center of the table.
- On the card, write down a statement that supports the claim. You can use prior knowledge or course materials for this.
- Pass your Claim Card to the person to your right.
- Write down a statement that supports the claim on the card that you now have. It can't be the same as any of the supports already written on the card.
- Repeat the process until each group member has written a supporting statement on each card.
- Put the Claim Cards back in the center of the table.

Round 2

- Grab one Claim Card from the pile and stand up.
- Find at least three other students who have the same claim as you and get into a group with them (if there are more than six people in your group, let your teacher know).
- Look at all the supporting statements that were written for your claim. Decide which supporting statements are strongest (that is, they best support the claim).
- Write the strongest supporting statements on the whiteboard so everyone can see them.

CLAIM TESTING: GLOBAL CONFLICT (GROUP ACTIVITY)

Round 3

- With the same group you were in for Round 2, consider any historical exceptions to your claim. What can you offer to refute the claim?
 - Add at least one refuting statement—what we often refer to as a *counterclaim*—on the board so everyone can see it.
 - Write both your strongest supporting statements and the exception to the claim. Be sure to explain your reasoning for choosing your supporting statements and refutation. Your teacher may also have you share your statements and counterclaim with the class.
2. Choose one claim that you think has the best supporting evidence. In the space below, write a four- or five-sentence paragraph using the supporting statement and counterclaim for the claim you circled.