

Name _____ # _____
Date _____ Period _____

ASSIGNMENT: LUNCHROOM FIGHT



Imagine that you are the principal of Rotolo Middle School and you just found out there was a fight in the lunchroom the first week back from summer. You've asked many students and teachers who witnessed the fight to write down what they saw and who they think started the fight. Unfortunately, you received many conflicting accounts that disagree about important details of the fight, like who started it, when it started, and who was involved. For this assignment, you will be working with your classmates to introduce yourselves to methods used by historians in order to establish their narratives.

The fight was between Justin and Max. Justin is a new student from out of town. He is shy, quiet, and does not have many friends. He moved to Batavia last month because his father was hired to take over a large portion of a company that employs many people in the local area. Justin's father fired many people, including Max's parents, when he reorganized the business. Max is a popular student, who is known for his friendliness and good humor. In the past few weeks, however, he has been withdrawn and somewhat depressed.

Today you're going to receive evidence from eyewitnesses and others connected to a fight in a lunchroom. Your job is to figure out who should get suspended for starting the fight. In order to figure that out, you're going to need to source, contextualize, and corroborate. In other words,

you’re going to need to read and compare multiple pieces of evidence in order to figure which are more reliable and how they all fit together to fill out the story of what happened in the lunchroom that day.

DIRECTIONS: Use the evidence from the Lunchroom Fight Evidence Cards to complete the table below. Each row in the table should have at least two pieces of evidence.

Town Context: What is happening in the town that might explain the lunchroom fight?	Who said this?	Explain if this source is reliable or not and why.

School Context: What has been happening in the rest of the school (for example, in English)	Who said this?	Explain if this source is reliable or not and why.

Cafeteria Context: What happened in the cafeteria?	Who said this?	Explain if this source is reliable or not and why.

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Historical context: What was happening in the world at that time?

Situational context: What are the specific circumstances surrounding the event or idea?