

Making Sense of Claims & Evidence

Example of Opposing Claims

Claim A: Watching television is good for individuals, families, and the nation.

Claim B: Watching television is bad for individuals, families, and the nation.

On the space before each piece of evidence, label the evidence as A (relates to Claim A) or B (relates to Claim B), or C (relates to both), or I (irrelevant). Highlight the best piece of evidence for Claim A in one color and the best piece of evidence for Claim B in a different color. Write a reasoning sentence for the highlighted piece of evidence for Claims A and B (explain how and why this evidence supports the claim well).

Samples of Evidence from Readings

_____ Improvements in camera technology mean that it is now possible to see a fetus grow inside a uterus, and to see pictures from NASA cameras on Mars.

_____ More Americans know the lyrics to the theme song from "The Brady Bunch" than know the words to Shakespeare's "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day."

_____ An average American living to age 65, at present levels of TV viewing, will have spent nine years of his life watching TV.

_____ Every year, more and more stations are added to cable offerings.

_____ Crime is at least 10 times as prevalent on TV as in the real world.

_____ During the Gulf War, television gave viewers an instant picture of the fighting and casualties, along with updates from government officials.

_____ A substantial percentage of people get their news from television, even from television comedy news shows like "The Daily Show."

_____ Masterpiece Theatre has been on the air for more than two decades.

_____ Ernest Hemingway's *In Our Time* and "M*A*S*H*" both use the futility of war as their topic. The *Catcher in the Rye* and "My So-Called Life" both want to understand the anguish over teenage identity.

_____ On prime time TV, men outnumber women at least 3 to 1, while in the real world, there are actually slightly more women in the population.

_____ More and more Americans report being stressed out by work and family obligations.

Reasoning for Claims A and B

Claim A: _____

Claim B: _____
