

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### CER EVIDENCE PRACTICE

When you are asked to argue your opinion in writing, it is often called “persuasive” writing. To “persuade” means to convince someone that your opinion is right. If you are trying to convince someone who doesn’t agree with you, you are more likely to get them to see your side if you SUPPORT your ideas with FACTS that can’t be argued. A claim with support is strong. A claim without support is weak.

#### FACTS vs. OPINIONS

For the purpose of persuasive writing in Social Studies, facts need to be TRUE. They are things like statistics, numbers, results of an experiment or a specific quote from an expert. Facts cannot be proved false. Facts given in articles your teacher gives to you should be trusted as true.

**FACT:** *The address of TMS is One Falcon Way, Tolland, CT 06084*

Opinions are people’s ideas about something. People often argue about an opinion. Just because you truly believe something to be true does not make it a fact.

**OPINION:** *TMS is the best Middle School ever.*

Match the facts to the claims below. There are more in the “facts” column because some of them are not facts! Cross out the ones that are NOT FACTS.

CLAIM (simple claim)	FACTS
<p>_____ Jerusalem is one of the most important religious places in the world.</p> <p>_____ More people tend to live near river and lakes.</p>	<p>A. I would like to visit Jerusalem because there are so many interesting places to visit.</p> <p>B. Most of China’s major cities are located on rivers.</p> <p>C. The Dome of Rock (Islam), Via Dolorosa (Christianity) and the Wailing Wall (Judaism) are important sites located there.</p> <p>D. Rivers are nice places to live because it is fun to fish and take boats out on the water.</p>

When you write persuasively, you need to find **GOOD FACTUAL EVIDENCE** to support what you are saying. At this stage, you are often given articles to read that have information for and against a topic and then you are asked to support your opinion using evidence from the articles. In the future, you will need to find your own evidence and your own sources. Either way, you will need to be adept at FINDING EVIDENCE to use.

**Read the following paragraph and HIGHLIGHT or UNDERLINE the evidence.**

*Smoking is a harmful and damaging habit that makes smokers less attractive. Smoking stains teeth, dries the skin, and causes wrinkles. The smell of smoke lingers in a smokers clothing, hair and causes bad breath. If that isn't enough, smoking is also very bad for your health. It is estimated that the damage from smoking one cigarette shortens the smoker's life expectancy by 7 minutes – that is each cigarette! Smoking greatly increases the chance of developing emphysema (severe breathing problems), cancer and heart disease. Do not smoke. It is addictive and will only make you ugly and ill.*

**Answer the questions below.**

**QUESTION: Why is smoking a bad idea?**

1. What would be the best evidence to use if my claim was:

*Smoking is a bad idea because people will not like you if you smoke.*

---

---

2. What would be the best evidence to use if my claim was:

*Smoking is a bad idea because it will make you ugly.*

---

---

3. What would be the best evidence to use if my claim was:

*Smoking is a bad idea because it can make you very ill.*

---

---