

Critical Reading: Source, Claim & Validity

Evaluate claims in age-appropriate texts by examining evidence, source context, purpose, date and limits.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Evaluate claims in age-appropriate texts by examining evidence, source context, purpose, date and limits.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Learn the idea

1 A claim is stronger when evidence is relevant, sufficient and accurately represented.

2 Source validity depends on context; a source can be useful for one question and weak for another.

3 Critical reading means checking reasoning without assuming that disagreement makes a source unreliable.

Talk about it

Explain one idea in your own words. Give an example from real life, a drawing or an object if that helps.

Separate claims, evidence and opinion in an original information passage.

Compare two source cards for author/organisation, date, purpose and evidence.

Identify a claim that goes beyond the evidence supplied.

Rewrite an overconfident conclusion so it matches the evidence.

Explain one limitation that a careful reader should keep in mind.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

With a trusted adult, compare two reputable pages about one factual topic and write what each source contributes and what still needs checking.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Create a five-question source-check card and use it on a child-appropriate information page.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. Does a polished design prove that a claim is reliable?

2. What makes evidence relevant?

3. Why can a limitation strengthen a report?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “Critical Reading: Source, Claim & Validity”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

No.

2. Suggested response

It directly bears on the claim being considered.

3. Suggested response

It shows the writer understands what the evidence can and cannot establish.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

FINISH

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:

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