

EVIDENCE AND INFERENCE IN THE NEWS

Introduction: If you left your desk to get a drink and came back to find your pencil missing you might blame someone of stealing it. But, you would need to back it up with some evidence for example: "My pencil was pink with yellow flowers on it; Mary has a pink pencil with yellow flowers on it." This statement is evidence, it is a fact, and it can be proven, but it still doesn't mean Mary stole your pencil. Blaming Mary is an inference; it may or may not be true.

Definitions:

Evidence _____

Inference _____

Now that you have a definition for each of the terms, classify each one of the following sentences as an inference or as a piece of evidence. (put a check mark in the appropriate box).

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. All students will sleep in this Saturday. | <input type="checkbox"/> Inference | <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence |
| 2. 10 out of 15 flowers in my garden are red. | <input type="checkbox"/> Inference | <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence |
| 3. My backpack is green. | <input type="checkbox"/> Inference | <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence |
| 4. 95% of students took an art class last year. | <input type="checkbox"/> Inference | <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence |
| 5. My dog must have chewed on my shoes overnight. | <input type="checkbox"/> Inference | <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence |
| 6. Two men were seen running from the bank. | <input type="checkbox"/> Inference | <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence |
| 7. Most cats weigh between 3-5 kilograms. | <input type="checkbox"/> Inference | <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence |
| 8. I stubbed my toe on the chair. | <input type="checkbox"/> Inference | <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence |
| 9. I think that humans killed off all of the deer. | <input type="checkbox"/> Inference | <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence |
| 10. No matter what I say, My mom's not going to let us go to the movie. | <input type="checkbox"/> Inference | <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence |

Get with a partner and compare your answers. If you disagreed, try and come to a conclusion on which one is correct.

OVER →→

Now you are ready to read an article and decide if statements that are made are evidence or inference.

- Read the article provided by your teacher.
- After reading the article, try and find ten statements, write them below, and classify them as evidence or inference.

1. _____
_____ Inference Evidence

2. _____
_____ Inference Evidence

3. _____
_____ Inference Evidence

4. _____
_____ Inference Evidence

5. _____
_____ Inference Evidence

6. _____
_____ Inference Evidence

7. _____
_____ Inference Evidence

8. _____
_____ Inference Evidence

9. _____
_____ Inference Evidence

10. _____
_____ Inference Evidence

If time permits, get with another group and read over each others statements and see if they agree with you, and you with them, on whether you answers are accurate or not.

Conclusion

Why is it important to be able to distinguish between evidence and inference when you watch the news or read science articles?