Directions

Reasons vs. Evidence: *Learning Center*

Work in pairs or triads (establish a Reader, Materials Person, Recorder).
Scheduled Time: 30 minutes

Overview: This activity will help you learn the difference between reasons and evidence when constructing an argumentative writing piece.

Materials

- Directions Sheet
- At least 3 copies of "What's the Difference Between Reasons and Evidence?" Handout
- Game Cards in envelope
- At least 3 copies of Umbrella Graphic Organizer (1 for each reason)
- Answer Key in envelope
- Reflection Sheet

Directions: (The Reader should read completely before beginning.)

1. The *Materials Person* should distribute a copy of "What's the Difference Between Reasons and Evidence?" to each member of the group.

2. The *Reader* will read "What's the Difference Between Reasons and Evidence?" aloud to the group, or group members can take turns reading the document aloud, or individually to themselves. Discuss any confusions and/or clarifications.

3. The *Materials Person* will then lay out the 3 copies of the "Umbrella Graphic Organizer" on the table.

4. The *Materials Person* will take the Game Cards out of the envelope and place them on the table as well.

5. The group will read through each of the Game Cards.

6. Determine which statements are reasons and which ones are evidence. Place them on the graphic organizer as you discuss and make your decisions. (Reasons go on the umbrella; evidence goes underneath.)

7. Once all the Game Cards are placed on the graphic organizer, the *Materials Person* will take out the Answer Key from the envelope, along with one Reflection Sheet.

8. The *Materials Person* will give the Reflection Sheet to the *Recorder.*

9. Review the answers as a group. As you do, the *Recorder* will check off which ones your group got correct.

10. When you are done checking all the answers, discuss the questions in bold on the Reflection Sheet. The *Recorder* will write your final answers to the questions.

11. All members of the group will initial the bottom of the Reflection Sheet.

12. One member of the group will put the completed Reflection Sheet on the "Work Completed" side of his/her folder.

13. The *Materials Person* will return the Game Cards and the Answer Key into their respective envelopes. He/she will place the Game Cards envelope, Answer Key envelope, and the 3 Umbrella Graphic Organizers back into the Learning Center, and will put the Learning Center back in its proper place.

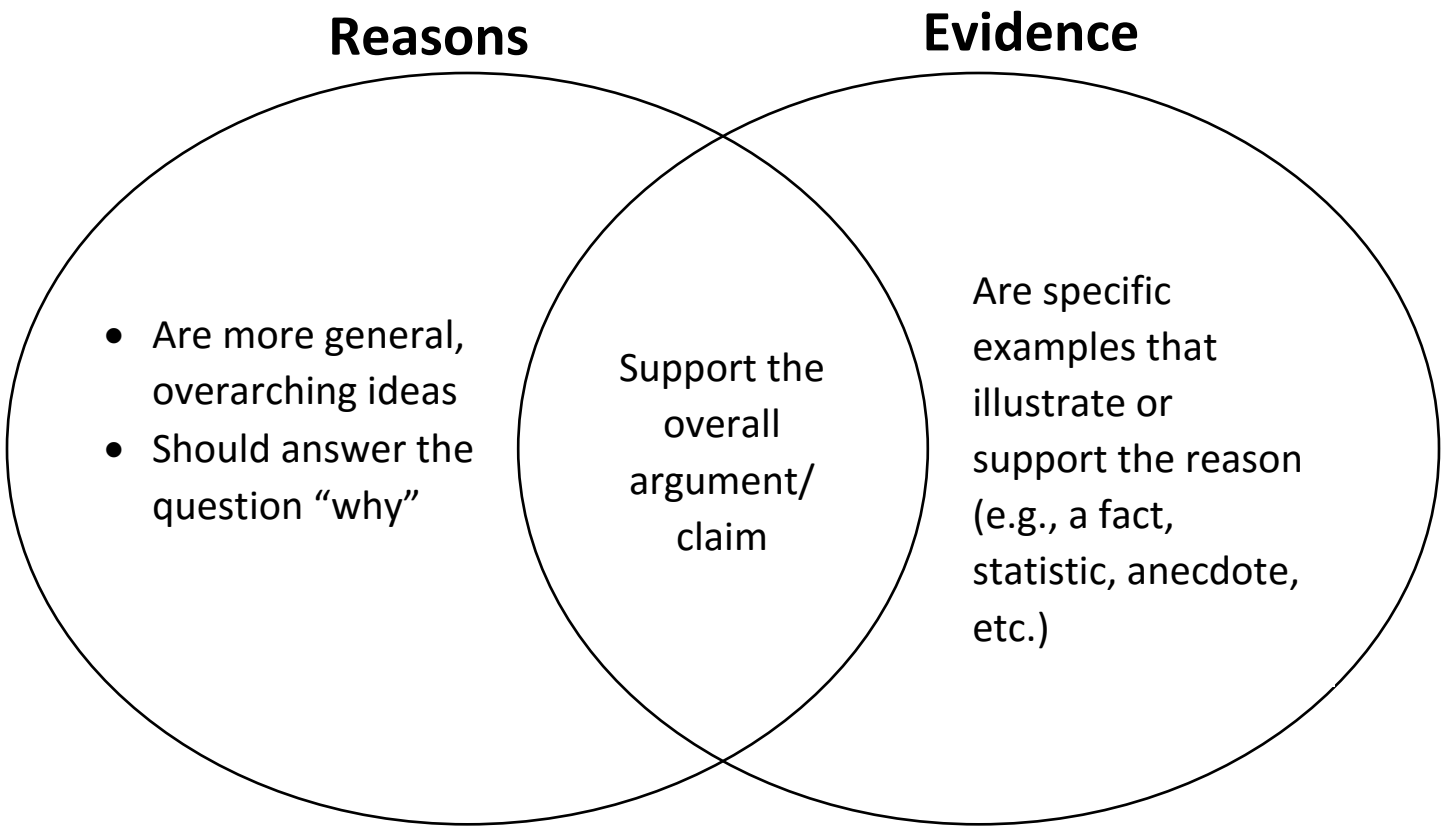
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Handout

What's the Difference Between Reasons and Evidence?

A strong argument contains both reasons ***and*** evidence. Sometimes, people think that reasons and evidence are the same thing, but really, they are different. Each part plays an important role in convincing your audience of your claim, but they should not be confused with one another. Look at the Venn diagram below to learn about the similarities and differences between the two.



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Handout Cont.

For example . . .

Let's say that your overall argument/claim is: "School uniforms are beneficial." Look at the two statements below:

a) Alejandra, a student who attends School ABC, states, "When I walk down the street, I feel proud to wear the name of my school."
b) School uniforms create a sense of community.

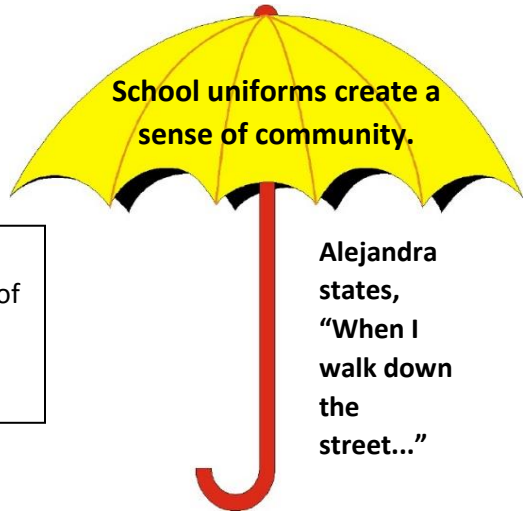
Statement A is evidence, while Statement B is a reason.

Both statements support the claim that "School uniforms are beneficial," but Statement A is a **specific** anecdote/opinion, while Statement B is a broader, more overarching idea. You can think of reasons as an "umbrella," under which many different examples could fall. These examples are your evidence!



If you cannot think of evidence to fall under the umbrella of your reason, it is an indication that your "reason" might actually be evidence!

This is the correct use of reason and evidence.





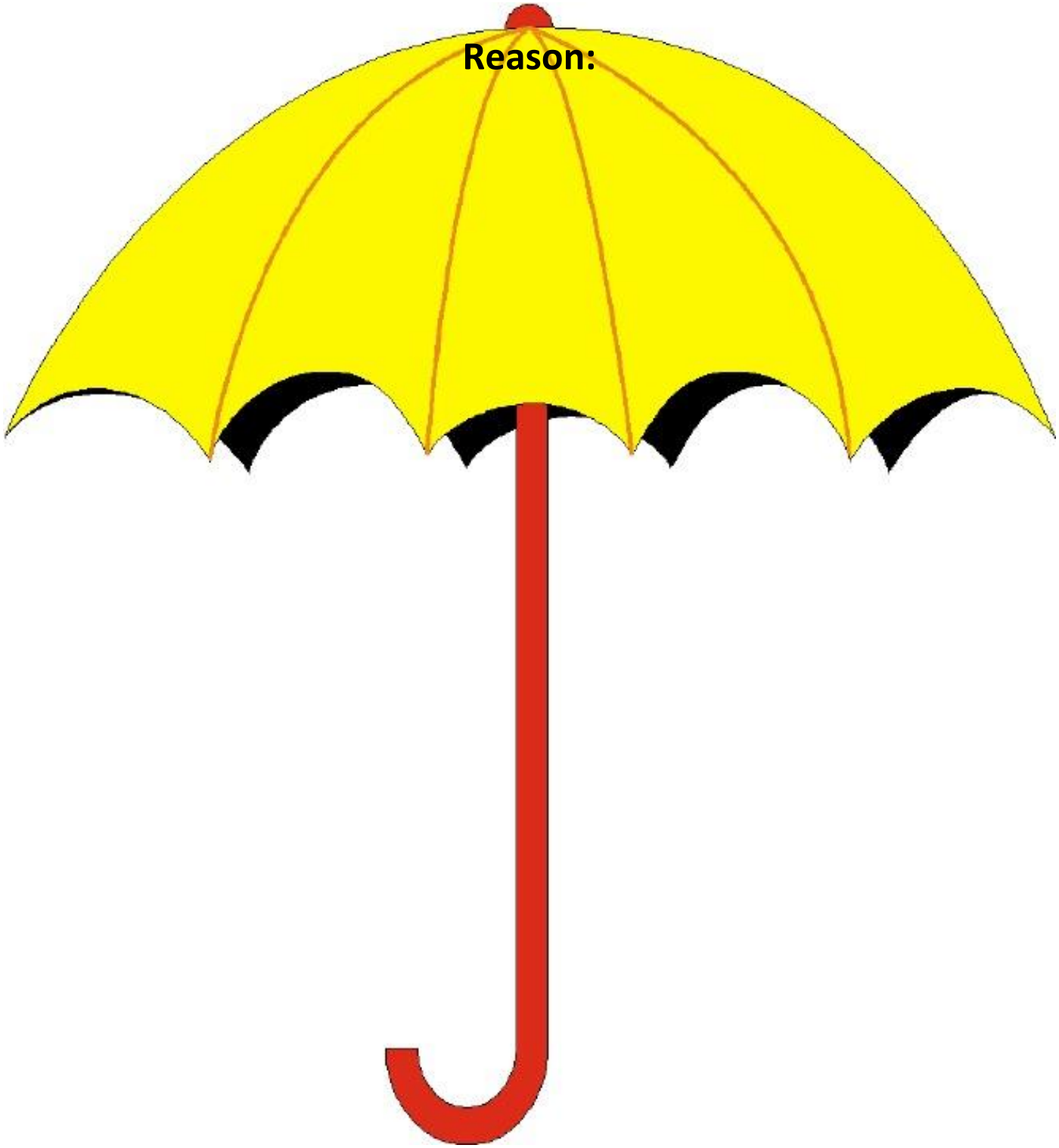
This is an INCORRECT use of reason and evidence. The "reason" is too specific, so there are no other examples to give as evidence to support it.

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Umbrella Graphic Organizer

Claim: Technology is improving society.



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Game Cards

Reasons vs. Evidence: *Learning Center*
Game Cards

Cut the squares up

"… according to a report last year by the nonprofit child advocacy group Common Sense Media, one in five teens said social media makes them feel more confident." (*"The Upside of Selfies,"* CNN)	Technology can improve one's self-esteem and confidence.	With video conferencing, families can communicate with and even see their loved ones who live in different geographical regions.
Social networking sites, such as Twitter, allow people from all across the city and world to commuincate and organize for a cause.	Communication is easier than it has ever been before.	People don't need to go to the library or ask a teacher anymore to find out about or learn new things about a particular topic; the information could literally be at their fingertips in seconds.
"In the survey of more than 1,000 13- to 17-year-olds about how they view their digital lives, […] 29% said it made them feel less shy versus the 3% who said it made them feel more introverted." (*"The Upside of Selfies,"* CNN)	When people post pictures of themselves or their personal lives, most of the comments are usually complimentary, and include things like "You're beautiful," "So pretty!"	More and more people have access to information.
Websites like Politifact allow citizens to fact check what politicians are saying to ensure the veracity of their claims.	Text-to-speech and speech-to-text software enables the disabled to have a voice, something that was previously impossible.	Push notifications and RSS feeds can send you news updates and information as soon as it happens.

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Reflection Sheet

Reasons vs. Evidence: *Learning Center*
Reflection

Directions: Check your answers with the Answer Key. Put a check next to the reasons and evidence your group got correct. Then, answer the questions that follow.

- ☐ Reason 1
  - ☐ Evidence
  - ☐ Evidence
  - ☐ Evidence
- ☐ Reason 2
  - ☐ Evidence
  - ☐ Evidence
  - ☐ Evidence
- ☐ Reason 3
  - ☐ Evidence
  - ☐ Evidence
  - ☐ Evidence

In your own words, how would you describe the difference between reasons and evidence to one of your peers?

Are there any questions that you still have? What questions/confusions still remain for you?

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Answer Key

Reasons vs. Evidence: *Learning Center*
Answer Key

Reason: Technology can improve one's self-esteem and confidence.

Evidence:

- "… according to a report last year by the nonprofit child advocacy group Common Sense Media, one in five teens said social media makes them feel more confident." (*"The Upside of Selfies,"* CNN)
- When people post pictures of themselves or their personal lives, most of the comments are usually complimentary, and include things like "You're beautiful," "So pretty!"
- "In the survey of more than 1,000 13- to 17-year-olds about how they view their digital lives, […] 29% said it made them feel less shy versus the 3% who said it made them feel more introverted." (*"The Upside of Selfies,"* CNN)

Reason: More and more people have access to information.

Evidence:

- Push notifications and RSS feeds can send you news updates and information as soon as it happens.
- Websites like Politifact allow citizens to fact check what politicians are saying to ensure the veracity of their claims.
- People don't need to go to the library or ask a teacher anymore to find out about or learn new things about a particular topic; the information could literally be at their fingertips in seconds.

Reason: Communication is easier than it has ever been before.

Evidence:

- Text-to-speech and speech-to-text software enables the disabled to have a voice, something that was previously impossible.
- With video conferencing, families can communicate with and even see their loved ones who live in different geographical regions.
- Social networking sites, such as Twitter, allow people from all across the city and world to commuincate and organize for a cause.

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