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Bare Assertions- Year 5

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Strong Opinions Need Support

Bare assertion



This is the best choice.

Impersonal it



It could be said that this is a strong choice.

General source



Many readers agree that this is a strong choice.

Specific source



The Year 5 Library Survey states this is a strong choice.

Bare Assertion Support Moves



A bare assertion is an opinion without enough support.



1. Add a reason

because it helps the reader



2. Use impersonal it

It could be said that...



3. Name a general source

Many students agree...



4. Specify the source

The class survey states...

Assertion Support

★ Tic-Tac-Toe ★



Choose a square. Strengthen the bare assertion with a reason, source or tempered wording.
Three in a row wins.

Homework is useful.

Sport is better
than art.

Books are more
fun than films.

School gardens
help everyone.

Rainy days
are boring.

Online games
are the best.

Pets make life
better.

Lunch should
be longer.

Reading clubs
are important.



Player 1: circles



Player 2: crosses

Strengthen the Sentence

Instructions:

Roll. Move.

Read a card.

Strengthen the assertion aloud.

If your partner agrees, stay on the space.



START

1

2

3

4

5



10

9

8

7

6



11

12

13

14

15



20

19

18

17

16

21

22

23

24

FINISH

Draw a card



Strengthen the Sentence Cards



This park is
amazing.

Strengthen this sentence.



Homework
should stop.

Strengthen this sentence.



Reading is
important.

Strengthen this sentence.



The blue team
is best.

Strengthen this sentence.



Rainy days are
terrible.

Strengthen this sentence.



Vegetables are
healthy.

Strengthen this sentence.



This app is
useful.

Strengthen this sentence.



School
uniforms help.

Strengthen this sentence.



Every class
needs art.

Strengthen this sentence.



Cycling is
fun.

Strengthen this sentence.



This book is
boring.

Strengthen this sentence.



Gardens help
schools.

Strengthen this sentence.

Add a reason, source or tempered phrase.



Strengthen the Sentence Recording Sheet



Name: _____

Partner: _____

Card	Strengthened sentence
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	



Check: Did you add a reason, source or tempered wording?

Name: _____

Bare Assertions vs Supported Opinions

Read each statement. Tick whether it is a bare assertion or a supported opinion.

1 This playground is the best.

☐

Bare

☐

Supported

2 The class survey shows most students prefer extra reading time.

☐

Bare

☐

Supported

3 Pets make people happier.

☐

Bare

☐

Supported

4 According to the school garden club, composting reduced waste.

☐

Bare

☐

Supported

5 The blue team should win.

☐

Bare

☐

Supported

6 Many reviewers agree that the novel has a strong ending.

☐

Bare

☐

Supported

7 Rainy days are annoying.

☐

Bare

☐

Supported

8 The council report states that the new crossing improved safety.

☐

Bare

☐

Supported

Name: **ANSWERS**

Bare Assertions vs Supported Opinions

Read each statement. Tick whether it is a **bare** assertion or a supported opinion.

1 This playground is the best.



Bare



Supported

2

The class survey shows most students prefer extra reading time.



Bare



Supported

3 Pets make people happier.



Bare



Supported

4

According to the school garden club, composting reduced waste.



Bare



Supported

5 The blue team should win.



Bare



Supported

6

Many reviewers agree that the novel has a strong ending.



Bare



Supported

7 Rainy days are annoying.



Bare



Supported

8

The council report states that the new crossing improved safety.



Bare



Supported

★ Moving Beyond ★ ≡ Bare Assertions ≡

Name: _____

Rewrite each bare assertion so it includes support.

Example:

Bare: This book is great.

Supported: Many readers agree that this book has an exciting ending.

1. Lunch should be longer.

2. Cycling is the best exercise.

3. Every class needs a garden.

4. Online games improve thinking.

5. Reading before bed helps students.

★ Moving Beyond ★ ≡ Bare Assertions ≡

Name: ANSWERS

Rewrite each bare assertion so it includes support.

Example:

Bare: This book is great.

Supported: Many readers agree that this book has an exciting ending.

1. Lunch should be longer.

The canteen survey shows many students want a longer lunch.

2. Cycling is the best exercise.

It could be said that cycling is a strong exercise because it builds fitness.

3. Every class needs a garden.

Many school garden clubs report that gardens help students learn outdoors.

4. Online games improve thinking.

Some researchers suggest that strategy games can improve problem solving.

5. Reading before bed helps students.

The class reading log shows that reading before bed helps students settle.



Spot the Support



Name: _____



Support types: impersonal it, anonymous support, general source, specific source

Read each statement. Write the type of support used.

- 1** It could be argued that walking to school builds independence.

Type of support: _____

- 2** Many families believe that weekend sport helps children connect.

Type of support: _____

- 3** Teachers often agree that reading aloud improves fluency.

Type of support: _____

- 4** The Riverdale Youth Council states that the skate park is well used.

Type of support: _____

- 5** It is generally agreed that clean classrooms help students focus.

Type of support: _____

- 6** According to the Year 5 Library Survey, graphic novels encourage reading.

Type of support: _____



Spot the Support



Name: _____

Which argument is stronger?

Circle A or B. Explain which statement is more convincing.



A. Online learning is useful.

B. The School Technology Review states that online learning helps students practise at home.

Stronger argument: _____

Why? _____



A. Fruit is the best snack.

B. Many health educators agree that fruit is a strong snack choice.

Stronger argument: _____

Why? _____



A. The library should open earlier.

B. It could be argued that the library should open earlier.

Stronger argument: _____

Why? _____



Spot the Support



Name: **ANSWERS** _____



Support types: impersonal it, anonymous support, general source, specific source

Read each statement. Write the type of support used.

- 1** It could be argued that walking to school builds independence.

Type of support: impersonal it

- 2** Many families believe that weekend sport helps children connect.

Type of support: anonymous support

- 3** Teachers often agree that reading aloud improves fluency.

Type of support: general source

- 4** The Riverdale Youth Council states that the skate park is well used.

Type of support: specific source

- 5** It is generally agreed that clean classrooms help students focus.

Type of support: anonymous support

- 6** According to the Year 5 Library Survey, graphic novels encourage reading.

Type of support: specific source



Spot the Support



Name: **ANSWERS** _____

Which argument is stronger?

Circle A or B. Explain which statement is more convincing.

1

A. Online learning is useful.

B. The School Technology Review states that online learning helps students practise at home.

Stronger argument: **B** _____

Why? **It names a specific source.** _____

2

A. Fruit is the best snack.

B. Many health educators agree that fruit is a strong snack choice.

Stronger argument: **B** _____

Why? **It uses a general source.** _____

3

A. The library should open earlier.

B. It could be argued that the library should open earlier.

Stronger argument: **B** _____

Why? **It tempers the claim with impersonal wording.** _____



Tempering Assertions



Name: _____



To temper an assertion, soften overconfident wording so the claim sounds fair and credible.

Part 1: Label each statement: too strong or tempered.

1.	Everyone knows homework is useless.	_____
2.	It could be argued that homework is not always useful.	_____
3.	This is definitely the only good solution.	_____
4.	Many people might see this as a helpful solution.	_____

Part 2: Rewrite each claim with tempered wording.

A. Online learning is always better.

B. Team projects are never fair.

C. This book is the worst choice.

Tempering Assertions



Ranking Support Strength



Name: _____

For each set, choose the strongest and fairest version.

1

- A. Recess is the best part of school.
- B. Many students enjoy recess.
- C. The Year 5 wellbeing survey shows that many students value recess.

Strongest: _____

Reason: _____

2

- A. This is the only good plan.
- B. It could be argued that this plan is effective.
- C. This plan is perfect.

Strongest: _____

Reason: _____

3

- A. Bikes are better than cars.
- B. The local transport report states that bikes reduce traffic near schools.
- C. Everybody knows bikes are better.

Strongest: _____

Reason: _____

4

- A. Group work always helps.
- B. Group work can help when roles are clear.
- C. Group work is never difficult.

Strongest: _____

Reason: _____



Tempering Assertions

Name: **ANSWERS** _____



To temper an assertion, soften overconfident wording so the claim sounds fair and **credible**.

Part 1: Label each statement: too strong or **tempered**.

1.	Everyone knows homework is use less .	too strong
2.	It could be argued that homework is not always useful.	tempered
3.	This is definitely the only good solution.	too strong
4.	Many people might see this as a helpful solution.	tempered

Part 2: Rewrite each claim with tempered wording.

A. Online learning is always better.

It could be argued that online learning helps some students.

B. Team projects are never fair.

Team projects can be unfair when roles are unclear.

C. This book is the worst choice.

Some readers may find this book a weaker choice.



Tempering Assertions



Ranking Support Strength



Name: **ANSWERS** _____

For each set, choose the strongest and fairest version.

1

- A. Recess is the best part of school.
- B. Many students enjoy recess.
- C. The Year 5 wellbeing survey shows that many students value recess.

Strongest: **C** _____

Reason: **It names a specific source.** _____

2

- A. This is the only good plan.
- B. It could be argued that this plan is effective.
- C. This plan is perfect.

Strongest: **B** _____

Reason: **It tempers the claim.** _____

3

- A. Bikes are better than cars.
- B. The local transport report states that bikes reduce traffic near schools.
- C. Everybody knows bikes are better.

Strongest: **B** _____

Reason: **It uses a specific source.** _____

4

- A. Group work always helps.
- B. Group work can help when roles are clear.
- C. Group work is never difficult.

Strongest: **B** _____

Reason: **It is fair and tempered.** _____



Evidence Builder Challenge



Name: _____



Use the source hint to strengthen each claim.

1 Claim: The school should plant more trees.

Source hint: School Garden Committee

Reason _____

Source phrase _____

Improved sentence _____

2 Claim: Students should read for pleasure.

Source hint: Year 5 Reading Survey

Reason _____

Source phrase _____

Improved sentence _____

3 Claim: Walking to school is helpful.

Source hint: Local safety report

Reason _____

Source phrase _____

Improved sentence _____



Evidence Builder Challenge



Name: **ANSWERS** _____



Use the source hint to strengthen each claim.

1 Claim: The school should plant more trees.

Source hint: School Garden Committee

Reason trees add shade

Source phrase The School Garden Committee states

Improved sentence The School Garden Committee states that more trees would add helpful shade.

2 Claim: Students should read for pleasure.

Source hint: Year 5 Reading Survey

Reason reading builds fluency

Source phrase The Year 5 Reading Survey shows

Improved sentence The Year 5 Reading Survey shows that pleasure reading helps students build fluency.

3 Claim: Walking to school is helpful.

Source hint: Local safety report

Reason walking reduces traffic

Source phrase The local safety report states

Improved sentence The local safety report states that walking to school can reduce traffic.



Supported Opinion Challenge



Assessment Page 1

Name: _____

Part 1 Which statement is a bare assertion?

- ☐ (A) Outdoor lessons are the best.
- ☐ (B) The class survey shows many students enjoy outdoor lessons.
- ☐ (C) It could be argued that outdoor lessons help focus.
- ☐ (D) According to the garden committee, outdoor lessons increase participation.

Part 2 Rewrite this bare assertion with support: Outdoor learning is always better.

Part 3 Explain why naming a source can make an opinion more convincing.

Supported Opinion Challenge



Name: _____



Assessment Page 2

Outdoor Learning Claim

Some students say outdoor lessons are simply the best. However, the Year 5 focus survey found that many students concentrate better after a short outdoor task. The school garden committee also reported that outdoor lessons helped students discuss ideas more clearly.

1. Underline one bare assertion in the passage.

2. Identify one general source used in the passage.

3. Identify one specific source used in the passage.

4. Write one tempered sentence about outdoor learning.



Supported Opinion Challenge



Assessment Page 1

Name: **ANSWERS** _____

Part 1 Which statement is a bare assertion?

- A** Outdoor lessons are the best.
- B** The class survey shows many students enjoy outdoor lessons.
- C** It could be argued that outdoor lessons help focus.
- D** According to the garden committee, outdoor lessons increase participation.

Part 2 Rewrite this bare assertion with support:

Outdoor learning is always better.

It could be argued that outdoor learning helps many students focus.

Part 3 Explain why naming a source can make an opinion more convincing.

Naming a source shows where the support comes from, so the opinion sounds more credible.



Supported Opinion Challenge

Name: **ANSWERS** _____

Assessment Page 2

Outdoor Learning Claim

Some students say outdoor lessons are simply the best.

However, the Year 5 focus survey found that many students concentrate better after a short outdoor task. The school garden committee also reported that outdoor lessons helped students discuss ideas more clearly.

1. Underline one bare assertion in the passage.

Some students say outdoor lessons are simply the best.

2. Identify one general source used in the passage.

many students

3. Identify one specific source used in the passage.

the Year 5 focus survey

4. Write one tempered sentence about outdoor learning.

It could be argued that outdoor learning helps many students focus.

☆ Bare Assertions- Year 5 Rubric ☆

Student: _____ Date: _____

Criteria	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	ACHIEVING	CONFIDENT	EXCEEDING
Identifies bare assertions	Rarely identifies bare assertions.	Sometimes identifies bare assertions with help.	Identifies most bare assertions with some accuracy.	Consistently identifies bare assertions accurately.	Consistently identifies all bare assertions and explains why.
Uses support moves	Rarely uses support moves.	Uses simple support moves with help.	Uses appropriate support moves most of the time.	Uses a range of support moves effectively.	Uses a wide range of support moves skillfully and creatively.
Chooses credible sources	Uses sources that are not reliable or are missing.	Uses sources with limited reliability or some guidance needed.	Uses reliable sources that support the opinion.	Uses credible, relevant sources consistently.	Selects highly credible, relevant sources that strengthen the argument.
Tempers claims	Makes strong statements with no tempering.	Attempts to temper claims sometimes.	Usually tempers claims using impersonal wording.	Consistently tempers claims appropriately.	Skilfully tempers claims to sound balanced and convincing.

Learning Goal

We are learning how writers make opinions sound stronger, fairer and more credible.



Question 1

True or false: A bare assertion is an opinion without enough support.



Answer 1

True. It states an opinion but does not give convincing support.





Great Work!

