



## Application: MEL Skills in ELA/SS Classrooms

# Turn & Talk: Evidence and Claims

- What constitutes evidence in your subject (ELA and/or social studies)?
- How does your subject evaluate the quality of claims?
- How does your subject compare the truthfulness of alternative claims/explanations?



# Claims vs. Models

## CLAIMS

- An answer to a question
- An assertion based on results of an investigation
- Requires justification to support the claim

## MODELS

- An explanation of a phenomenon
- A hypothesis that leads to new questions
- Predicts or describes how and why a phenomenon occurs

EVIDENCE is the foundation for both claims and models!

# Sample MELs for History & ELA

Plausibility is the judgment we make about the truthfulness - or the potential truthfulness - of one model or option compared to another.

The judgment may be tentative, and you do not have to be committed to that judgment decision eternally.

Students reconsider plausibility ranking after making connections.

	Greatly implausible (or even impossible)									Highly plausible
<b>Model A</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Model B</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**Directions:** Draw 2 arrows from each evidence box, one to each model. You will draw a total of 8 arrows.

**Key:**



The evidence **supports** the model



The evidence **STRONGLY supports** the model



The evidence **contradicts** the model (shows it is wrong)



The evidence has **nothing to do with** the model

<https://tinyurl.com/hungergamesmel>



**Evidence #1:**

**Model A:** *The Hunger Games* is an example of dystopian fiction.

**Evidence #4:**

**Evidence #2:**

**Model B:** *The Hunger Games* is an example of science fiction.

**Evidence #5:**

**Evidence #3:**

**Evidence #6:**

**Directions:** Draw 2 arrows from each evidence box, one to each model. You will draw a total of 8 arrows.

**Key:**



The evidence **supports** the model



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<https://tinyurl.com/civilwarmel>



**Source #1:** *Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union.*  
Adopted December 24, 1860

**Source #2:** Speech by Alexander H. Stephens, Vice President of the Confederate States of America,  
March 21, 1861

**Source #3:** Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S Grant, published 1885

**Model A:** Slavery was the primary cause of the American Civil War.

**Model B:** States' rights were the primary cause of the American Civil War.

**Source #4:** Edward Alfred Pollard, *The lost cause; a new Southern history of the War of the Confederates ... Drawn from official sources and approved by the most distinguished Confederate leaders.*  
Book published in 1867

**Source #5:** Edward H. Bonekemper III, *The myth of the lost cause: Why the south fought the civil war and why the North won.* Book published 2015.

# Additional considerations in History/Social Studies

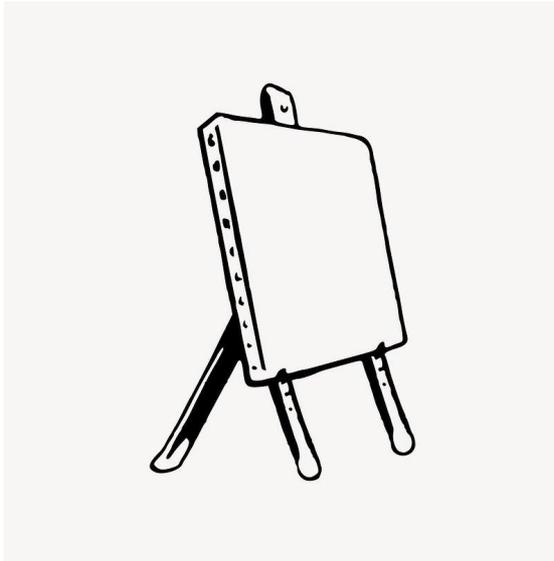
- Prioritizing evaluating the credibility of evidence
- Piecing together an argument from an imperfect, incomplete historical record
- Considering historical empathy



# Additional Considerations in ELA?



# Time to Brainstorm



- What could the MEL strategy (evaluating the strength/relevance of claims in light of alternative claims) look like in your subject area or specific class?

# Gallery Walk



- As you walk around, if someone else's paper has an idea similar to yours, put your group number next to it
- If it is new but you really like it, add a star (or comet) or heart
- If you don't understand it, add a question mark

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