

# Evidence and Inference in the News

## Summary

Students will first define evidence and inference, then categorize claims as evidence or inference. Students will then select an article from the newspaper and distinguish between statements of evidence and statements of inference.

## Time Frame

1 class periods of 45 minutes each

## Group Size

Pairs

## Materials

- [Student sheet](#)  
(attached)  
newspapers or the [articles included with this document](#) (attached)

## Instructional Procedures

Hook activity -- Ask students if they have ever been accused of doing something that they didn't do. Ask them if there was any proof that they did it or didn't do it.

Have students read the introduction on the student sheet and help them to come up with a definition of evidence and inference as a class.

Dictionary definitions:

Evidence - Any thing, things, data, or statements helpful in forming a conclusion or judgment

Inference - the act or process of coming to a conclusion based solely on what you already know.

Students will categorize statements as either evidence or inference.

Students will compare/share their answers with a partner and discuss any differences they may have had.

Each partnership will then select an article from a newspaper that discusses human impact on the environment (or hand out copies of either of the attached articles based on students' reading abilities).

Students will list statements found in the articles and classify them as either evidence or inference.

Have each partnership compare share their list with another group to check for accuracy.

## Assessment Plan

### Scoring Rubric

:

1. Student followed all directions.....5
2. Student contributed during partner activity.....5
3. Student sheet completed and accurate.....5

## Bibliography

Lesson Design by Jordan School District Teachers and Staff.

Authors

[Utah LessonPlans](#)