

Primary Sources and Public Policy

Grades 9-12 Name: _____ Date: _____

Context and evidence

Evidence packet: a resident petition with 420 signatures, a council budget table, a business survey of 38 owners and an air-quality graph covering six months.

Your investigation

1. For each source, state what it can and cannot establish.

2. Identify the population or time period represented and any missing information.

3. Find two claims that can be corroborated across sources.

4. Rank the sources for three different questions and explain why the ranking changes.

5. Write a policy recommendation with a claim, cited evidence, limitation, counterargument and review measure.

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Learning goals

Reason accurately, use evidence, show a method and communicate a defensible conclusion.

Response guidance

Assess source fitness for purpose rather than using a fixed hierarchy. Recommendations must preserve numbers and state the limits of samples and time periods.

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Extension and assessment

Ask learners to compare methods, revise one response after feedback and identify the evidence that most changed their thinking.