



Two Sides: Tiny Houses

Mission: The school newspaper printed two opinion articles about tiny houses. Compare the claims and evidence in each, sort their points, and decide which argument is better supported.

Big question: How do authors on different sides use evidence to support their central ideas?

★ Warm-up: Pros and cons

List one pro and one con.

Having a big backyard ✓ **Pro: space to play; con: more mowing.**

Can two people use the same fact for opposite arguments? ✓ **Yes.**

Key vocabulary

Perspective	A point of view on a topic.
Central idea	The main point of a text.
Supported	Backed by evidence.
Bias	Leaning toward one side.

1 Box 1

Sort the points

In the simulator: Sort every fact into the Venn diagram.

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Central ideas

What are the two central ideas?

☐ A: tiny homes save money and resources. B: tiny homes have practical problems.

☐ Both say tiny homes are perfect. ☐ A: families need big homes. B: tiny homes are cheap.

✓ **A: tiny homes save money and resources. B: tiny homes have practical problems.**

3 Box 3

Which is better supported?

Which article better supports its central idea? Compare their evidence.

Claim

Look for: Names an article; at least 8 words

Evidence

Look for: an exact quote from the text; at least 12 words

Comparison

Look for: Compares the quality of evidence; at least 14 words

4 Box 4

Legend: your own view Legend only

Would a tiny house work for YOUR family? Use one point from each article.

Look for: Uses a point from A; Uses a point from B; at least 25 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How do authors on different sides use evidence to support their central ideas?

Look for: Two authors can share facts but reach different central ideas. Comparing their evidence side by side shows which claims are supported with specifics (costs, data) and which rely on general statements.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	DTZ-E
 Investigator	1J9-I
 Legend	3Y3-L

Watch for these misconceptions

- "A strong argument just needs strong feelings." Arguments need evidence.
- "Statistics always prove a claim." Evidence must be relevant and from a reliable source.
- "The central idea is the topic." The central idea is a full statement about the topic.