

Activity: Identifying Types of Evidence

In the video ("How We Know Things"), Josh Pasek explained how to identify several different types of evidence. In particular, he identified the following 5 key types of evidence:

- **Proof**: evidence that can be proved through mathematical or logical reasoning
- **Claim**: evidence we've heard or read elsewhere
- **Experience**: evidence that relies on what someone has directly encountered or observed
- **Inference**: things we assume based on other pieces of evidence
- **Deductive Testing**: evidence that relies on the scientific method

In this exercise, you'll consider ten different quotes from individuals and new sources, and then match each quote with the type of evidence it relies on.

Exhibit A: "306 Electoral Votes is greater than the 270 Electoral Votes needed to win the Electoral College."

Exhibit B: "I was at the inauguration and it was really crowded."

Exhibit C: "In a survey of Americans, Democrats were more likely than Republicans to believe that September 11th was a government cover-up."

Exhibit D: "James Comey (FBI Director) decided to reopen the investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails, that must mean that she did something else illegal."

Exhibit E: "Scientists have looked for a potential link between vaccinations and autism and cannot find any evidence across multiple epidemiological studies."

Exhibit F: "Whomever wins the election will become president; Donald Trump won the election; Donald Trump therefore will become president."

Exhibit G: "We have a president who is a congenital liar." –David Gergen, former advisor to Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and Clinton (3/21/2017)

Exhibit H: "I saw the police pull someone over and that person happened to be Black."

Exhibit I: "The Democrats will make a deal with me on healthcare as soon as ObamaCare folds - not long." -Donald J. Trump (3/27/2017)

Exhibit J: "Michael Flynn (Trump's Former National Security Advisor) didn't tell Congress about his meetings with the Russian Ambassador, therefore there must be collusion between the Trump Campaign and Russia."