

Class Exercise: Newspaper Claims

Divide into groups of 3-5. Find an example in the newspaper provided of a contention purportedly based on empirical evidence. It could be in an article, an editorial, or even an advertisement. Then briefly answer the following questions in the space below:

List your names:

Secretary (5 pts extra): _____

Other group members: _____

Questions

1. What claim is made?
2. What's the dependent variable (conceptually or operationally)?
3. Is it a qualitative or quantitative claim?
4. Which "way of knowing"? How is that claim supported?
5. Is the claim falsifiable? What possible evidence could show that the claim is wrong or false?
6. Do you agree or disagree with the claim? Why or why not?
7. What would be a better way to address that claim?