BIG QUESTIONS: How do we learn about the past? What kind of evidence should we *NOT* trust?

BAD EVIDENCE ACTIVITY

Type of "Bad Evidence"	Definition	Example #1	Example #2 (Your Turn)
Gossip	Casual conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details that are not necessarily true	"I saw John and Edwin sitting at separate lunch tables. **They must be** mad at each other."	
Hearsay	Information received from other people that cannot be proven; rumors	"Eric **told me** that Aliah is failing all of her classes."	
Maligning Character	To speak about (someone) in a mean way	"Della got that answer wrong, so she doesn't know **anything**."	
Libel	Writing false things about a person	When someone **writes** a book accusing a person of committing crimes, **but does not give evidence to prove it**.	
Slander	Saying false things about a person out loud	When someone *talks* on a news program and accuses another person of a crime, **but does not give evidence to prove it**.	
Yellow Journalism	When the news exaggerates or includes false details about a story to make it more exciting	When a news source uses a headline like, "SECRET ALIENS LIVE AMONG US!"	
"Waving the Bloody Shirt"	To bring up heroes and sad stories in order to get attention and sympathy	When a news source uses a headline like, "THE FOUNDING FATHERS WOULD BE ASHAMED!"	

Extension Idea #1

Write "classroom appropriate" examples of each category on slips of paper. Mix papers in a container. Pull and read examples at random. Have teams of or individual students compete to correctly identify what type of "bad evidence" each example falls under.

Extension Idea #2

In small groups, have students write short skits that involve one or two types of "bad evidence." Require the students to demonstrate examples and correctly identify those categories of "bad evidence." Require students to include the possible consequences that could result from using "bad evidence."

Enduring Families Project;
Children Stories