

Primal Compassion (page 138)**Active Reading SkillBuilder****Claims and Evidence**

When a nonfiction writer gives a strong opinion about something he or she believes is true, he or she is making a claim. The writer must give evidence to support this claim, and this evidence must be adequate—that is, there must be enough evidence; appropriate—that is, the evidence must logically fit the argument; and accurate—that is, the evidence must be factually correct. Identify the main claim of the article and find and evaluate the evidence used to back up this claim in the chart below.

The primary claim of this article is:

Evidence	Page
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Is this evidence adequate? Why or why not? _____

Is this evidence appropriate? Why or why not? _____

Is this evidence accurate? Why or why not? _____

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Identifying Fact and Opinion

A fact is a statement that can be proved. An opinion is a statement of personal belief that cannot be proved. In the chart below, write three statements of fact about what happened to the boy from the time he was climbing on the rocks until the zookeepers carried him from the exhibit. Explain how the statement could be proved. Then, compare your statement of fact to the way a witness describes the event. Record his opinion in the space provided.

Fact	Proof	Witness opinion
1.		
2.		
3.		