

The Hidden Language of Humanities

Support interpretations with evidence and acknowledge limits.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Choose a source-based task and identify the claim, evidence and qualification it needs.

Teach it in four steps

1. Read the question and establish the source context.
2. Identify evidence and separate it from inference.
3. Model a claim supported by that evidence.
4. Qualify the claim where the source cannot establish the full conclusion.

Worked classroom example

History: a recruiting poster shows the message its creators wanted to promote. It does not establish that every person accepted that message.

Teacher prompt: "Which detail supports your explanation? Show me how you know."

Check understanding

Ask learners to identify one supported claim and one claim requiring another source.

Fade the support

Remove claim headings and ask for an independent interpretation with a stated limit.

Adapt it across subjects

Science: distinguish a measurement from an inference.

Maths: distinguish what sample data show from a claim about all possible cases.

Adjust the language support

A1-A2 access: keep the subject goal; use visuals, a small word bank, pointing or drawing and partner rehearsal. Use a home language to establish meaning where helpful.

B1-B2 extension: ask for fuller explanations, precise subject vocabulary and qualifications. Reduce sentence openings when learners can organise the response independently.

These are starting points, not placement rules. Judge support from the learner's response to this task; proficiency can differ across skills.