

“Slip or Trip”



At five feet six and a hundred and ten pounds, Queenie Volupides was a sight to behold and to clasp. When she tore out of the house after a tiff with her husband, Arthur, she went to the country club where there was a party going on.

She left the club shortly before one in the morning and invited a few friends to follow her home and have one more drink. They got to the Volupides house about ten minutes after Queenie, who met them at the door and said, “Something terrible happened. Arthur slipped and fell on the stairs. He was coming down for another drink—he still had the glass in his hand—and I think he’s dead. Oh, my God—what shall I do?”

The autopsy conducted later concluded that Arthur had died from a wound on the head and confirmed that he’d been drunk.

Directions: Your task is to investigate the “observable evidence” (the story and the picture) and to then determine what may have happened. Based on your analysis of the evidence, you will make a claim about whether or not Queenie is telling the truth.

Step 1: Find all the evidence you can that indicates whether or not Queenie is telling the truth. Make a list of all the evidence. Evidence includes *concrete, observable information; personal testimony; written documents; and material objects and their condition or appearance.*

Step 2: Next, explain the “rule” or “warrant” that upholds each piece of evidence you found. Remember: warrants are *generally accepted rules or truths.* You may begin each of your warrants with the phrase “As a rule...” or “In general...”

Evidence (from picture or story)	“Rule” (these “rules” are your warrants)
<i>example:</i> Arthur still has a glass in his hand.	<i>example:</i> As a rule, in general, people who have slipped and are falling would drop the glass in order to catch themselves.
	As a rule, in general...

Step 3: Now, double-check that all of your **evidence** is *relevant* – i.e., that it legitimately proves the **claim**. (For example, some people write down “The stove is on” as a piece of evidence. But does the stove being on *really* prove the claim, or is it just an unrelated observation?) Are any of the pieces of evidence you cited actually just unrelated observations? Explain below.

Step 4: Based on the evidence and “rules” you identified above, make a determination about whether or not Queenie is lying. Does the evidence support Queenie’s version of events? [This is your **claim**.] Does your claim need a **qualifier** (a word that limits the scope of your argument; for example: probably, most likely, etc.)?

Is Queenie telling the truth?

CLAIM:

Congratulations! You’ve just constructed an ARGUMENT OF FACT (also known as: an argument based on observable evidence/data).