Make a defensible claim

Learning Notes

First, use field records to distinguish a measured zero from missing coverage and report the strongest warranted conclusion.

Unit 1 / Check who was there to observe

Interval	What the record supports
8.00–8.15, dry	Zero red-light crossings observed
After 8.20, wet	Observer absent; outcome unknown

Your learning route

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Draw the observation window •Name what the blank means

02 Editing a correction with a defensible scope p. 2
Label the unit beside every number •State what can settle it

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Give each claim its status •Make the review actionable

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Name _____ Class _____

Date _____

01 Separating a zero from an unobserved outcome

Learning goal Use field records to distinguish a measured zero from missing coverage and report the strongest warranted conclusion.

Key idea

A zero is a reading produced by a working observation procedure. A blank can mean the procedure was unavailable. Report the covered interval or group and explain why the missing part matters. Do not fill a gap with an average unless a stated method justifies it.

Worked example

A crossing observer recorded no red-light crossings from 8.00 to 8.15 and left at 8.15. Rain began at 8.20. A summary says nobody crossed on red throughout the wet morning. Correct it and propose a check.

1 **Draw the observation window** The observer records what happens from 8.00 to 8.15. Rain starts at 8.20, after the observer leaves. Put these events on the same timeline.

2 **Name what the blank means** Zero describes the observed dry interval. The wet interval has no measurement. A repeat observation during comparable wet periods would supply relevant evidence.

Worked answer Zero crossings were recorded in the first, dry quarter hour. The observer missed the wet period, so the log says nothing about behaviour in rain. Check separately timed crossing observations during comparable wet periods. Counting the blank as a second zero would invent an observation.

Check who was there to observe

Interval	What the record supports
8.00–8.15, dry	Zero red-light crossings observed
After 8.20, wet	Observer absent; outcome unknown

Common mistake “There were zero red-light crossings in both periods.”

Check your thinking A missing observation cannot count as a second zero. State the duration, weather and outcome the log actually covers.

Continue with this guided practice on p. 4

02 Editing a correction with a defensible scope

Learning goal Write a public correction that identifies a published error, supplies the verified replacement and leaves the outstanding question open.

Key idea

Readers need enough detail to identify the original error. Specify what the replacement count represents. Keep any pending verification separate, with a concrete source a reader could check. A correction that simply says the number was inaccurate conceals the substantive change.

Worked example

Draft a notice correcting 'Twenty households received grants.' The ledger contains twenty instalments; some households receive two; unique recipients have not yet been counted.

1. **Label the unit beside every number** An instalment is a payment event. A household is a distinct recipient. Because one household can receive two payments, counting rows does not count households.
2. **State what can settle it** A correction can report twenty instalments now and explain that the unique-recipient count awaits a check of recipient records. Avoid publishing a guessed replacement total.

Worked answer Our bulletin described twenty households as grant recipients. The ledger verifies twenty instalments, and a household can receive more than one. The number of distinct households is still being checked against recipient records. Keeping the unit beside the figure prevents the same mistake in the correction.

One figure, two possible units

Unit	Status
Instalments	Twenty recorded
Distinct households	Not yet counted

Common mistake "Exactly ten households received the twenty instalments."

Check your thinking Some households receive two; this does not say every household did. A recipient-level count is still needed.

Continue with this guided practice on p. 4

03 Making a public recommendation from contested evidence

Learning goal Write a short public submission that balances stakeholders' evidence, sets a reversible policy and states how its success will be judged.

Key idea

A public submission should name the decision the recipient can take. Attribute competing concerns fairly, build both into the design of a trial, and specify a measurable condition for continuing or revising it. Do not turn participation or consent into assumptions about people who were not consulted.

Worked example

Write a short submission to a park committee. Traders favour performances at dusk; nearby residents report sleep disruption after eight. The committee can license a two-week trial. Address both groups, propose a safeguard and say what evidence would lead you to continue, change or stop the trial.

1 **Give each claim its status** Traders favour performances; residents report disrupted sleep after eight. Distinguish a projected benefit from a reported harm and choose a trial condition linked to the timing of the harm.

2 **Make the review actionable** Define what will be monitored and what decision follows. Visitor counts can test footfall, while timed overruns and resident reports check the safeguard. Set a response if the two measures point different ways.

Worked answer Committee members, please license performances at dusk for two weeks with a firm end before eight. Traders expect evening footfall, while neighbours have reported disrupted sleep after eight. Put the stopping time on every licence and give residents a direct way to record overruns. Compare timed overruns and trader visitor counts with the previous fortnight. Renew only if performances finish on time and visitor numbers improve. Notice how the stopping time answers the resident evidence and the review tests the traders' prediction.

Common mistake "We will run a trial and see whether everyone is happy."

Check your thinking That gives no way to judge conflicting outcomes. Name the period, the safeguard, the indicators and a decision rule before the trial starts.

Continue with this guided practice on p. 5

Apply what you learned

Unit 1 • Guided practice

A sound meter returned 0 threshold breaches on Monday. It had no battery on Tuesday, when a concert took place. Correct 'The concert caused no breaches' and identify a follow-up.

Hint Mark which entries were possible to observe. Does the missing period coincide with a relevant change?

Unit 1 • New context

A help desk logged zero calls from 3 to 4. Logging stopped at 4; a system fault began at 4.10. What can the log support, and what could check the fault period?

Unit 2 • Guided practice

Correct 'All 14 clubs voted yes.' Minutes show fourteen votes in favour. Joint clubs may send two delegates. Club-level totals are pending.

Hint Write three clauses: what we said, what the record counts and what still needs checking.

Unit 2 • New context

A bulletin says 34 authors submitted. The log shows 34 manuscripts and permits repeat submissions. Write a brief public correction.

Unit 3 • Guided practice

Write a short submission to a school board. Athletes want the hall before school; cleaners need an uninterrupted half-hour before opening. A ten-day trial is possible. Address both groups, propose a safeguard and say what evidence would lead you to continue, change or stop the trial.

Hint Write to the decision maker. Include the least-heard group in both the safeguard and the review.

Unit 3 • New context

A council can trial a weekend stall for two Saturdays. Sellers expect more visits; wheelchair users report a blocked ramp. Propose a safeguard and a condition for continuing.

Unit quiz

Instructions Work independently. Show your thinking, then hand your work to your teacher or parent.

Task 1

The reading room logged no complaints in a staffed hour. The complaint counter closed during an unstaffed evening. Correct 'There were no problems all day' and propose a check.

Task 2

Correct 'Sixty new users joined.' The system counted sixty logins on launch day, including repeats. Account creation records have yet to be checked.

Task 3

Write a short submission to a market committee. Stallholders request weekend loading. Wheelchair users report that unloading obstructs the only level entrance. A two-week pilot and a separate loading bay are available. Address both groups, propose a safeguard and say what evidence would lead you to continue, change or stop the trial.

Check your practice

Unit 1 Separating a zero from an unobserved outcome

Guided practice There were no recorded breaches on Monday. Tuesday's concert period is missing because the meter was off, so Monday cannot settle the concert claim. Check a calibrated independent meter covering the venue during the concert.

Application It supports zero logged calls from 3 to 4 only. Check time-stamped operator or phone records after 4.10 before describing calls during the fault.

Unit 2 Editing a correction with a defensible scope

Guided practice We reported that all fourteen clubs voted yes. The minutes record fourteen votes in favour, and a joint club may send two delegates. The number of clubs represented by those votes remains unconfirmed pending a check against the delegate register.

Application Our bulletin reported 34 authors. We can verify 34 manuscript submissions. As authors could submit more than once, the number of individual authors is still being checked.

Unit 3 Making a public recommendation from contested evidence

Guided practice Board members, trial morning practice for ten school days, starting only after the cleaners' protected half-hour. Athletes would gain access without asking cleaners to work around equipment. Record daily court use and whether cleaning finished uninterrupted. Renew if players use the sessions and the protected interval is observed each day; otherwise move the practice slot.

Application Place the stall outside a marked ramp clearance zone. Count visitors against comparable Saturdays and log access checks and complaints. Continue only if visits improve and the ramp stays clear; relocate or suspend the stall if access fails.

Revisit a task Choose one task. Copy a clue or rewrite one part of your answer.