

Name _____

Date _____

ABOLISHING THE PENNY MAKES GOOD SENSE

COPY MASTER

Elements of Nonfiction

EVIDENCE

Writers use **evidence** to convince readers that their claims are valid. Evidence may consist of anecdotes, observations, examples, statistics, and the views of experts. Sound evidence must be relevant to the argument and sufficient to support the claim.

Directions: As you read Alan Blinder's essay, record the evidence he provides. Then underline the response that tells whether or not each piece of evidence is relevant and sufficient. One example has been done for you.

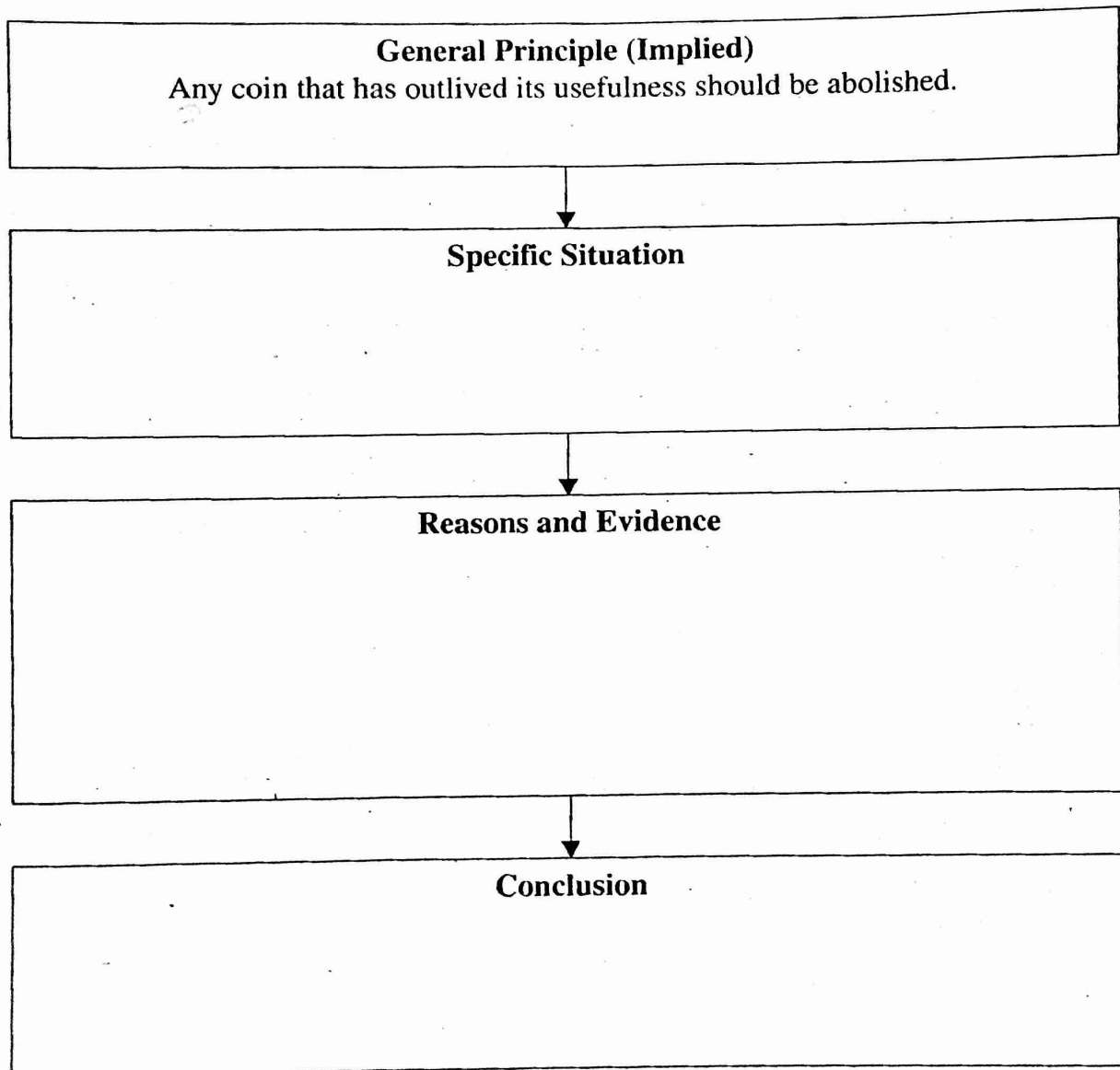
| Claim: The penny has outlived its usefulness and should be retired. | | | | |
|--|------------|----|-------------|-----------|
| Evidence | Relevant? | | Sufficient? | |
| Few people nowadays even bend down to pick a penny off the sidewalk. | <u>yes</u> | no | yes | <u>no</u> |
| | yes | no | yes | no |
| | yes | no | yes | no |
| | yes | no | yes | no |
| | yes | no | yes | no |

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Reading Skill**ANALYZE DEDUCTIVE REASONING**

When you arrive at a conclusion by applying a general principle to a specific situation, you are using **deductive reasoning**. Deductive reasoning is only as valid as the general principle with which it begins.

Directions: As you read Alan Blinder's editorial, complete this chart to analyze his deductive reasoning.



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Question Support

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CRITICAL ANALYSIS

For questions 1–3, see page 591 of the Pupil Edition.

Directions: Answer each question.

4. Examine an Argument Match each argument on the left to the author's counterargument. Write the letter of the counterargument in the blank.

_____ Inflation would result.

_____ People would pay more in sales taxes.

_____ The penny is part of our tradition.

a. Customers might lose a few pennies but would be better off without them.

b. Rather than increasing to \$40 from \$39.99, prices would likely drop to \$39.95.

c. As countries grow richer, their smallest currency unit should grow, too.

5. Analyze Deductive Reasoning Of all the reasons the author gives to get rid of the penny, which one do you think is best? _____

6. Analyze Tone Circle the phrase that best describe the author's attitude toward getting rid of the penny.

a. somber and frustrated

b. sincere but lighthearted

c. frivolous and sarcastic

7. Interpret a Statement Reread the last sentence of the essay. What does the author really think the new Congress will do? _____

8. Predict an Outcome Think about what you read. Name one thing that might happen if the penny couldn't be used anymore. _____

9. Make Judgments Would getting rid of the penny hurt anyone? Explain your answer. _____

10. Evaluate Evidence Did the author convince you that he was right? Why or why not? _____

11. Evaluate an Unstated Assumption Look at the chart on page 587. Is Blinder right that "any coin that has outlived its usefulness should be abolished?" Why or why not? _____

1. What is the author's opinion of the penny?
2. In what ways does the penny inconvenience people?
3. According to the author, how will customers be affected at checkout lines if the penny is abolished?