PRESSURE

Evidence, Experience, or Assumption?



In the film “Pressure” (StudioCanal), General Eisenhower must decide whether to launch the D-Day invasion, but his two weather forecasters disagree. When people disagree about what is true, it helps to ask what really lies behind each belief.

Key terms

Objective evidence: information that can be measured or checked, and is the same whoever looks at it.

Subjective experience: what a person feels, experiences, or remembers internally, which is real and important to them, but may not apply to every situation.

Preconceived assumptions: beliefs that people already hold before they look at the objective evidence or subjective experience.

Decide together whether each statement is mainly objective evidence, subjective experience, or a preconceived assumption, and tick one column. Some statements could fit more than one category, so be ready to explain your choice.

	Statement	Objective evidence	Subjective experience	Preconceived assumption
1	A weather ship in the Atlantic measures that the air pressure is falling fast.	☐	☐	☐
2	“I remember the storms during that battle in 1916. I never want to see anything like that again.”	☐	☐	☐
3	“The invasion has to go ahead on Monday. Everything is ready.”	☐	☐	☐
4	“In past years, when the weather charts looked like this, the weather turned out fine.”	☐	☐	☐
5	“Every time I wear my lucky socks, my team wins.”	☐	☐	☐
6	The thermometer outside reads 4°C.	☐	☐	☐
7	“Everyone I follow online agrees with me, so I must be right.”	☐	☐	☐
8	“I can’t explain it, but when I walked into that room I felt completely at peace.”	☐	☐	☐
9	The weather app shows a 90% chance of rain tomorrow.	☐	☐	☐
10	“An influencer I trust says this skincare product is amazing, and it worked for her, so it’ll work for me.”	☐	☐	☐
11	The train company’s app shows that the 8:15 train is running ten minutes late.	☐	☐	☐
12	“This new TV episode will definitely be good, because I loved the last one in the series.”	☐	☐	☐

Which two statements did you find hardest to sort? Write the number of each one, and explain why it was hard to sort.

Statement number: _____ Statement number: _____

Why: _____ Why: _____

_____ _____