

Slip or Trip? Accident or Crime?



Queenie Valentine was a five-feet-six and a hundred and ten pounds well-known socialite in Jacksonville. When she tore out of the house after a tiff with her husband, Arthur, a five-feet-ten and a hundred and fifty pound banker, 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 Valentine 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 died from a wound on the head and confirmed that he'd been drunk.

DIRECTIONS: Your group is an investigative team that must determine what may have happened. You can either agree or disagree with Queenie's version.

1. Do you think Queenie is telling the truth? Make a ***Claim***.
2. Find ***all*** the evidence you can that indicates whether or not Queenie is telling the truth. Make a list of ***all*** the evidence (even if you think the evidence contradicts your claim). Evidence includes concrete, observable information; personal testimony; written documents; and material objects and their condition or appearance.
3. Next explain how each piece of evidence supports your claim that Queenie is (or is not) telling the truth. Each explanation will be a generally accepted rule, which may begin with a phrase such as, "As a rule..." or "When people..." If other members of your team disagree with you, find evidence that will convince them.
4. Write a report to convince the others in the class that your analysis makes the most sense.

Slip or Trip?

Evidence (concrete, observable information; personal testimony; written documents; objects and their condition or appearance)	Rule or Warrant	Conclusion

Claim: