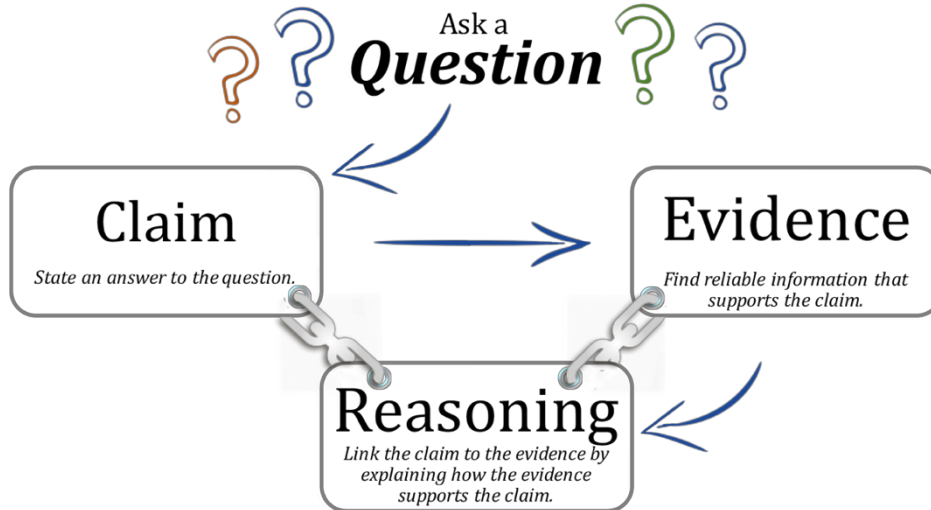


Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Claim, Evidence and Reasoning*

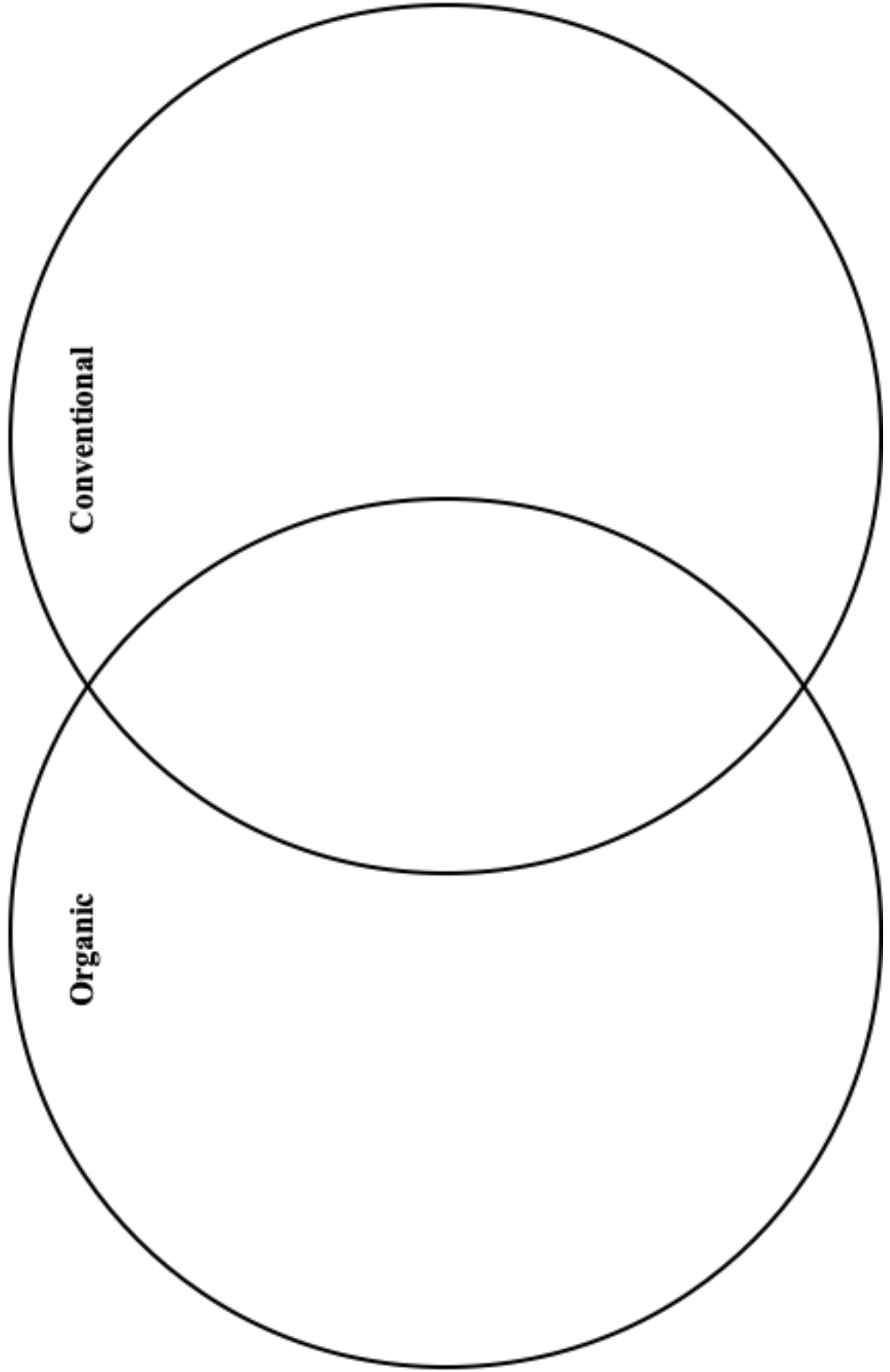
# Organic vs Conventional Food Production

**Directions:** Follow the Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning model below as you analyze organic vs conventional farming practices used in the production of our food.



Step 1	<b>Question:</b>
Step 2	<b>Claim:</b> <i>State an answer to your question.</i>
Step 3	<b>Evidence:</b> <i>Relevant observations and reliable information that supports your claim.</i>
Step 4	<b>Reasoning:</b> <i>Link the claim to the evidence by explaining <u>how</u> the evidence supports the claim.</i>

## Organic vs Conventional Food Production



**Can You Taste the Difference?  
Comparison Chart**

<b>Sample</b>	<b>Size &amp; Shape</b>	<b>Color &amp; Appearance</b>	<b>Taste</b>	<b>Which Method of Production?</b>	<b>Explain your choice:</b>
#1					
#2					
#3					
#4					
#5					
#6					
#7					
#8					
#9					
#10					

## Reflection Questions

To discern the difference between organic and conventional farming, think of an analogy. Imagine you need to accomplish a task such as cutting down a large tree from your backyard. You could use a variety of tools. You could use an ax, a handsaw, a chainsaw, or even an automated tree harvesting machine. Each of these methods have different pros and cons in different circumstances. The ax or the handsaw would be the cheapest, but would require the most time and physical exertion to complete the task. The chainsaw or automated machine would require much less work, but would cost more and might be more difficult to find. Farmers also use tools to produce our food and must analyze the pros and cons of each tool used in the production of our food. There are tools to manage weeds, tools to eliminate harmful pests, tools to improve soil nutrients, tools to improve water efficiency, etc. A conventional farmer can use a wider variety of tools including genetically modified seed, synthetic fertilizer, and pesticides. Organic farmers cannot use genetically modified seed and have fewer options for fertilizer and pesticide.

The biggest problem with the debate over “organic” and “conventional” crops is that it leaves the impression that there are only two ways to grow food... a “good” way and a “bad” way. The most important problem to be solved is discovering the best way to feed a growing world while also reducing the amount of land, water, and energy that is required. Reflecting on what you have learned, answer the following questions:

1. What are the merits and drawbacks of conventional farming methods?
2. What are the merits and drawbacks of organic farming methods?
3. How can both farming systems help provide an adequate food supply for a growing population?
4. What misconceptions could consumers have about organic/conventional food production?