

# Drawing Conclusions and Generalizing

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To **generalize** you draw a broad general conclusion based on several pieces of specific evidence.

**You use generalizing in the following situations:**

- You learn that over half the students in your school have experienced divorce. You could generalize that divorce has become common nationwide.
- You realize that four girls in your grade have the name Sophia. When your mother was your age, she had three girls in her class named Mary. From this observation, you could generalize that names go in and out of fashion.
- You notice that several popular singing groups are made up of all males or all females. You could generalize that music is divided along gender lines.

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In what other situations might you use generalizing?

Generalizing are not always true. They are false if they are based on inadequate information. Following are two examples of false generalizations:

- You know a girl who is afraid of snakes. You might falsely generalize that all girls are afraid of snakes.
- Your brothers are very interested in computers. You might falsely generalize that all boys are interested in new technologies.

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**Cluster Question:** What are the qualities of the gods and goddesses?

**Definition:** When drawing conclusions, you draw a broad general conclusion based on pieces of specific evidence.

**Directions:** Note how a reader studied the synopses on the following screens and drew the conclusion that in both stories the gods were angry, wanted revenge, and used their powers to punish others. The reader then made a general statement. Use the same technique in the next two pairs of synopses to draw conclusions.

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### Demeter and Artemis

**Synopsis:** After her daughter, Persephone, was taken from her, Demeter, goddess of the seasons, made it winter all the time.

**Synopsis:** When the hunter Orion accidentally saw Artemis, the goddess of hunt, while she was bathing, Artemis had him torn to pieces by his own dogs.

**Conclusion:** The gods use their power to punish.

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### Antaeus and Narcissus

**Synopsis:** The giant Antaeus considered himself so strong that he challenged the legendary Hercules to a wrestling match—and lost.

**Synopsis:** Narcissus liked his own looks so much that when he saw his reflection in water he fell in love with it.

### Conclusion:

The gods think very highly of themselves.

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### Athena and Medusa

**Synopsis:** The goddess of wisdom, Athena, heard the human Arachne brag that she could weave better than Athena could. To punish her, Athena turned Arachne into a spider.

**Synopsis:** One look at the monstrous goddess Medusa and humans turned to stone.

### Conclusion:

Goddesses can turn humans into nonhumans.

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After reading the synopses and drawing some conclusions, do you now have enough information about gods and goddesses to make some broad generalizations about them? If so, write them down. If not, return to this page and add generalizations as you read and learn more about gods and goddesses.

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