

Name _____

Fine Line Meanings



Directions: Each pair contains **near-synonyms** often confused in academic writing. For each pair:

- Choose the word that best fits the sentence and underline it.
- In **one clear sentence**, explain the precise difference in meaning between the two words.

1. The evidence was sufficient to **justify** / **explain** the policy decision.

Difference: _____

2. The researcher attempted to **isolate** / **separate** the variable affecting the outcome.

Difference: _____

3. The article offers a **critical** / **negative** assessment of the methodology.

Difference: _____

4. The committee reached a **resolution** / **decision** after extensive deliberation.

Difference: _____

5. The speaker's remarks were **concise** / **brief**, addressing all key points efficiently.

Difference: _____

6. The study's conclusions are **tentative** / **uncertain**, pending further trials.

Difference: _____

7. The author seeks to **imply** / **suggest** a broader interpretation without stating it directly.

Difference: _____

8. The policy had an **unintended** / **unexpected** impact on rural communities.

Difference: _____