



Using Evidence in Your Essay

Tips for using evidence:

- Use evidence to support your thesis/idea.
- Use evidence when making a claim on an uncertain topic.
- Evidence is usually presented in body paragraphs. Introductions & conclusions are typically for summarizing, but occasionally can utilize quotations.
- Always cite your sources, even when you're unsure if it's needed.
 - Failure to cite a source is considered plagiarism

The Importance of Evidence:

- Evidence is what supports the claims you make in your paper.
- An essay can seem as unreliable if there is no evidence backing your ideas.
- It gives you credibility by showing that you have done your research on your topic.
- If it isn't something known to everyone, support it with evidence.

<u>Using Evidence</u>	<u>Not Using Evidence</u>
• Dr. X says "rainbows are colored in a specific way because when the refraction of light hits rain, it causes visible light to be easily seen" (202). [MLA] • Dr. X (2011) says "rainbows are colored in a specific way because when the refraction of light hits rain, it causes visible light to be easily seen" (p. 202). [APA]	• Rainbows are colored because of light refraction. ★ Plagiarism Note: ★ All evidence provided in an essay needs a source, even when paraphrasing!

What Type of Evidence is Good to Use in an Essay:

- Essays require evidence that is relevant to the assignment.
- To determine if the evidence works:
 - Does it connect to your thesis (the focus or argument of your essay)?
 - Does it support a claim you've made?

Paraphrasing vs Quoting:

Quoting is when you take a direct copy of someone else's words or writing and put it into your paper, using quotations. There are many ways you can incorporate sources into your paper. For example literature essays often use direct quotes whereas APA papers commonly accept paraphrasing. Below are some examples of ways to get started!

- **For example:**

- Dr. X says "rainbows are colored in a specific way because when the refraction of light hits rain, it causes visible light to be easily seen" (202). [MLA] (**quoting**)
- Dr. X (2011) says "rainbows are colored in a specific way because when the refraction of light hits rain, it causes visible light to be easily seen" (p. 202). [APA] (**quoting**)

Paraphrasing is when you rephrase & summarize part of the paper in your own words, by condensing information and concepts into a few sentences.

- **For example:**

- Dr. X says rainbows are arranged in a certain order because of visible light (202). [MLA] (**paraphrasing**)
- Dr. X (2011) says rainbows are arranged in a certain order because of visible light. [APA] (**paraphrasing**)

How to Introduce Evidence in Your Essay:

- You should try to write an introductory sentence/a single phrase that introduces your evidence to your readers. This should also help reference back to a key component of your thesis statement!
- **For example:**
 - In the article, "Feminist Views," the author explains that society values gender roles because "QUOTE" (AUTHOR page). [MLA]
 - According to the author (DATE) of "Feminist Views", society values gender roles because "QUOTE" (page). [APA]

How to Connect Evidence to Your Thesis:

- Evidence should be relevant to your thesis.
- You can point the reader to the importance of the evidence through crafting an introduction and commentary that will refer to key points of your thesis.
- For example:
 - *Thesis: In the Awakening by Kate Chopin, the protagonist, Edna, denies her social roles and pursues her own personal interests.*

- The evidence should be related to:
 - Edna's character
 - Denial/rejection of social roles
 - What/How/Why Edna is being used to represent/symbolize (in larger context)

How to Craft Commentary Based on Evidence:

Evidence needs commentary, this comes after the quote is introduced. There are typically three things your commentary needs to do:

- Explain what the evidence is LITERALLY saying
- Explain the evidence in your own words
- Tie the evidence back to the thesis using parts of the evidence
- **For example:**
 - *In the article, "Feminist Views," the author explains that society values gender roles because "QUOTE" (AUTHOR page). [MLA]*
 - The author is explaining that the quote means this. This tells us that this is possible because of the science behind this. Therefore, THESIS can be explained simply by understanding that this can happen because of the science behind that. [MLA]