

Skill Builder: Best Evidence

Remember, good evidence is relevant and rich. Read the claim below and find relevant, rich evidence to support it.

1. Scan the chapter for the evidence that can be used for this claim.
2. Copy and paste the evidence in the second column
3. Write a brief justification for your choice in the third column.

Example:

By establishing a restless and disillusioned mood, the chapter comments on postwar uncertainty and the erosion of traditional values.

Best Evidence	"Instead of being the warm center of the world the middle-west now seemed like the ragged edge of the universe—so I decided to go east and learn the bond business."	This is the strongest evidence because it directly conveys Nick's sense of dislocation and dissatisfaction after the war. The contrast between the "warm center" and the "ragged edge" highlights his restless need to escape old comforts, reflecting postwar disillusionment and the search for new meaning in a rapidly changing world. It anchors the mood of unease that runs through the chapter.
Second-Best Evidence	"I came back restless. [...] Everybody I knew was in the bond business so I supposed it could support one more single man."	This evidence emphasizes Nick's restless state and the casual, almost mechanical choice to follow the crowd. While it shows his unease and lack of anchoring, it is slightly less rich because it focuses more on personal aimlessness than the broader mood of cultural and moral uncertainty that the best example conveys.
Third-Best Evidence	"I'm glad it's a girl. And I hope she'll be a fool—that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool."	This moment captures Daisy's personal cynicism and her disillusionment with the roles available to women. It contributes to the chapter's mood of disillusionment but is slightly weaker for this claim because it is more narrowly tied to gender commentary rather than the wider postwar cultural restlessness and moral erosion that shape the chapter's mood.

By establishing a setting wherein the lower class is treated with disregard, the text demonstrates class conflict.

Best Evidence		
Second-Best Evidence		
Third-Best Evidence		

By characterising Gatsby as flustered, the text challenges traditional masculine gender roles.

Best Evidence		
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Second-Best Evidence		
Third-Best Evidence		