**Using Evidence to Support Our Claims**

**What Is Evidence?**

* Evidence is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your written argument.
* In English class, for instance, evidence would be ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the

text that helps you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* In a write-up of a scientific experiment, evidence would be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in your experiment that proves or disproves a thesis.

**Why Do We Need Evidence?**

* Evidence is central to any written argument because it provides \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

around which you create your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, your opinion.

* Without evidence, an argument is a windy, flimsy statement of one person’s opinion.
* With evidence, an argument is grounded in facts and given shape. Evidence is the critical

link that helps you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Can Evidence Speak for Itself?**

* No! This is where you come in. It is simply not enough to drop a quotation into your paper and expect your reader to be convinced of your point.

**So How Can We Speak for and through Evidence?**

* When you use evidence, your role is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your reader that evidence

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Consider your role as writer to that

of a lawyer in a court of law. When you introduce evidence, you must tell the jury –your

readers-- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ this evidence \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your argument.

* Evidence must be analyzed and interpreted:
  + What does the evidence say and how should your reader­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? (Why is it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? Analyze/interpret the quote for the reader)
  + How does the evidence support \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in the paper?

* + You need to make these connections for your reader!

**Example:**

* Does it state/ imply what the quote means and why the quote is important to the argument?

YES NO

* Does the evidence support the overall claim?

YES NO

Research has shown that watching TV can have a negative impact on today’s youth. According to Conley, “the TV roles of girls and women tend to be less positive and more one-dimensional” (11). This idea is frequently engrained in the viewer’s mind, which can negatively impact female viewers’ self-esteem causing them to subject each other to the same negative associations. For example, the idea that a women can get what she wants by shedding a few tears is a common misconception used to explain why intelligent, and capable, women reap the benefits they deserve.

**Find what I did wrong in the following example:**

* Does it state/ imply what the quote means and why the quote is important to the argument?

YES NO

* Does the evidence support the overall claim?

YES NO

Research has shown that watching TV can have a negative impact on today’s youth. According to Conley, “the TV roles of girls and women tend to be less positive and more one-dimensional” (11). This quote exemplifies the problems with today’s television programs.

**What to Keep in Mind…**

* Whenever you use a quotation, show your reader \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that went into choosing that quotation.
  + What does it mean?
  + Why is it relevant to your point?
* Evidence is the framework of an argument, **but** you must do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ around that framework. If you want your reader to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your argument, you must do the thinking for your reader. It is up to you to tell your reader what to think about the evidence you provide.

**A side note on Citing Quotes:**

*Please label the author and page numbers below.*

* Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of

powerful feelings" (263).

* Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings"

(Wordsworth 263).

* Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

**No Author?**

* Use the name of the article

**No pages?**

* Use the paragraph numbers **when instructed**