

How to Use Evidence in Writing

Grade 6

You need good evidence to have a good argument, to get your point across. Evidence is always for or against something, but it does not speak for itself. Evidence should always support your point. Use quoted evidence if you cannot say it any better in your own words. You should have as much analysis as you do evidence. Playing devil's advocate at the end can help you reveal what evidence you have—and if you need more.

Grade 7

Evidence can make or break your argument. Do not assume your reader will know what you are talking about because evidence does *not* speak for itself. You need just as much analysis in your own words as evidence in your paper. Use multiple types of evidence that are relevant to your topic and make sense. Avoid “plop quotations,” which are quotations without any introductions or follow-up information. If the quotations does not make sense to you when you write it down, it will not make sense to the reader.