



Using Evidence

Why use evidence?

Using evidence explains the “so what” of your statement. Using evidence shows your audience why your claim is important and how it is relevant. Evidence backs up your statements to “prove” what you are saying.

Types of Evidence:

- ◆ Quotes
- ◆ Paraphrasing textual evidence
- ◆ Statistics

Process of Using Evidence:

- ◆ **Introduce:** Introducing evidence allows a smooth transition into the point you are trying to make. An example is something as simple as, “One source says...” or “Johnson stated...”
- ◆ **Cite:** Insert your evidence into the paragraph and cite the information’s source.
- ◆ **Explain:** Do not just end with inserting your evidence. Make sure that you are integrating your sources into your writing. You may do this by discussing the information, showing the importance/significance of the information you inserted, or applying the evidence to the main topic.



Why is explaining evidence important?

When you explain the evidence being used, it shows that you are able to understand the information and apply it or discuss it. In integrating the evidence, you are taking your paper a step further, not simply restating information you have read.

When Finding Evidence...

- ◆ **Find:** Find and interpret sources in your own opinion.
- ◆ **Evaluate the quality of sources:** look at where they are from. For example, a journal would be higher quality when compared to Wikipedia (See CARS resource for more on this).
- ◆ **Analyze data:** What does it show? How does it relate to your topic?
- ◆ **Connect:** Make connections between the source and your argument .

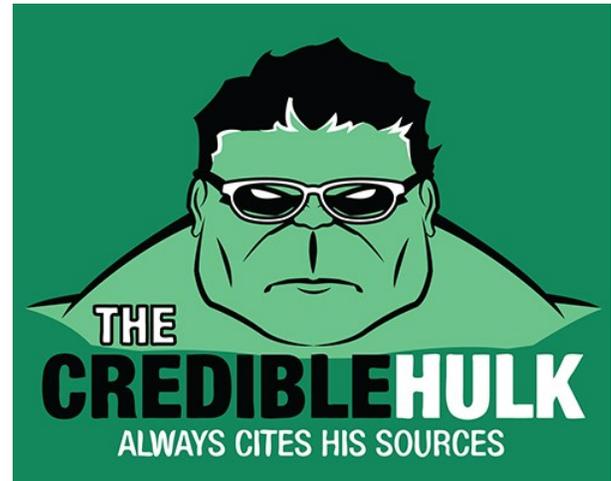
When should you use evidence?

- ◆ Whenever you are making a claim (thesis) to defend.
- ◆ Remember to cite direct quotes and paraphrased material.



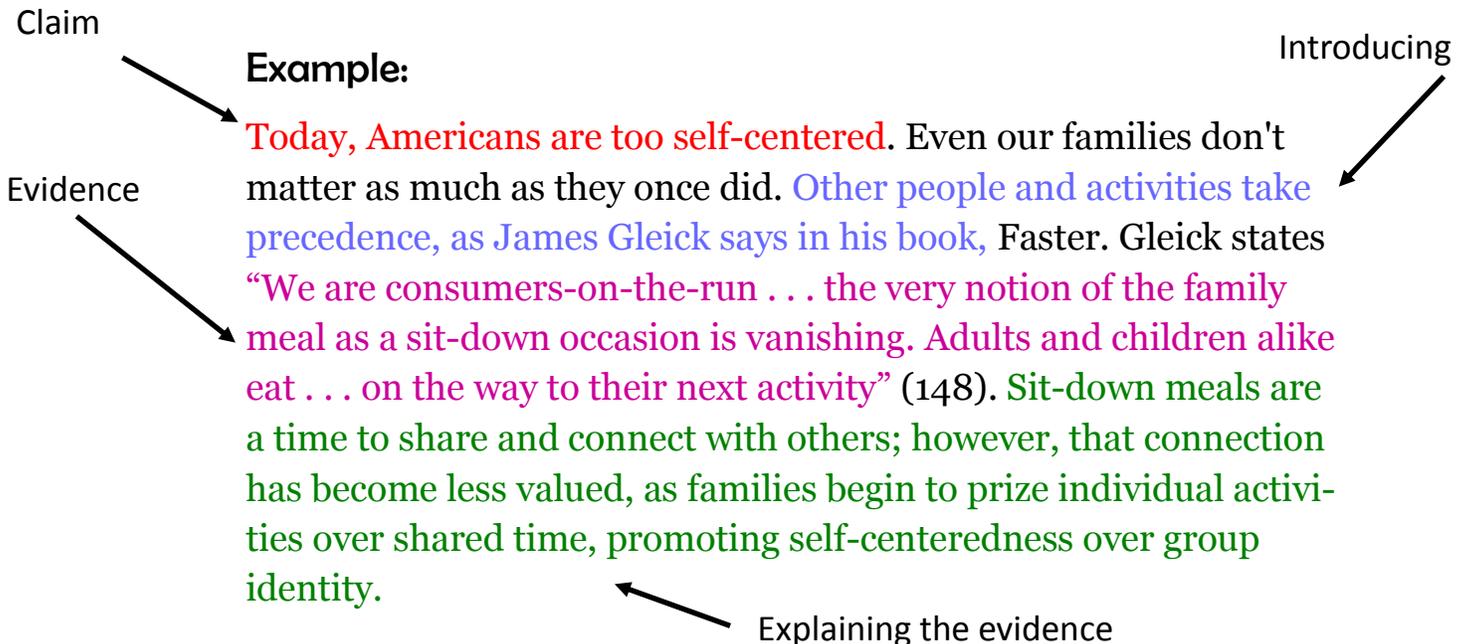
Reliable Places to look for Evidence:

- ◆ Journal Articles
- ◆ Books
- ◆ Government Publications
- ◆ Published Scientific Results
- ◆ Websites of experts on your topic
- ◆ Scholarly Journals



How should you use evidence?

- ◆ Offer support that agrees with your stance – then show how it supports your argument.
- ◆ Present evidence that contradicts your stance, then refute that evidence. This will in turn support your stance.
- ◆ Use the evidence to support your claim, not restate.



Further Assistance: For more detailed help or if you have questions, visit the Writing Center located in the Lewis University Library, or call [815-836-5427](tel:815-836-5427).

Sources: Writing Center of University of North Carolina, University of British Columbia, British University of Egypt (BUCC)