

# Citing Evidence?

What Does That Mean?

**Learning to Write Better by Citing Evidence  
to Support a Claim!**

When we examine an author's message, often called the **CENTRAL IDEA**, and most accurately called the **"AUTHOR'S CLAIM"**...

it is important to examine the way an author supports his ideas.





This makes each of us a sort of “**detective**” looking for the evidence an author uses to prove his/her point.

There are many ways we can conduct  
our “**detective work**” as we closely  
read a textual passage...



We look for different types of evidence, such as

**FACTS, STATISTICS, EXAMPLES,**

**EXPERT TESTIMONY,** and

**LOGICAL REASONING...**



And we can organize the evidence that we have found by:

- ✓ highlighting the text where the evidence is found,
- ✓ taking notes,
- ✓ creating graphic organizers, or
- ✓ developing outlines...



But, when we begin  
to **WRITE** about  
our “detective” work...



What do we **DO**  
with the evidence  
we have found?

What does it **MEAN** to “Cite Evidence”?

Probably the best thing to remember about any writing task that asks us to “**cite evidence**” (or “**discuss details**”) from the text is that the task is asking us to **USE** the evidence!





**USING** evidence means that we need to **explain** how the author supports his claim by presenting a particular fact or example.



This means that we will make a **direct reference** of the evidence AND we will **elaborate** (explain thoroughly) how that one particular piece of evidence (or detail) **proves** the author's claim (central idea.)



This explanation  
of how the evidence is used is called  
**COMMENTARY !**



But HOW does this

“**direct reference**”

of the evidence **LOOK LIKE**

in my written response?



It can take different forms.

It can be a **direct quotation**  
from the textual passage.

But remember, if you use the exact words  
of the author, you need to use quotations  
marks and give the author credit!



It can take another form...

It can be a **paraphrase**  
of the textual passage.

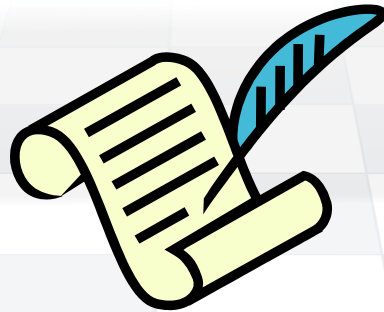
A paraphrase means that you have  
translated the author's words your own.



It can take another form...

It can be a **summary**  
of the evidence from the text.

A summary means that you have developed your own brief statement from more lengthy or extensive evidence the author has presented.



So, how did that detective work pay off?



Do you see how we can

**CITE EVIDENCE** in different ways?

Then, do you see how we can **USE**  
the evidence we cited to **EXPLAIN**  
how it supports the author's claim?



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*(Created for Edmond Public Schools)*

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