ELA | GRADES 5 TO 8 | STUDENT PACKET

Citing Text Evidence

Quote, paraphrase, and build ACE responses that stay tied to the passage

IN THIS PACKET YOU WILL LEARN TO

- ✓ Tell a quote from a paraphrase
- ✓ Choose the strongest evidence for a claim
- ✓ Write an ACE response with a citation
- ✓ Fix a response that leaves the passage behind

Name _____

Teacher _____

Class _____

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What Counts as Evidence

LEARN

Read this page with your teacher. Evidence is a line from the text that helps a reader believe a claim.

WORDS TO KNOW

claim	A statement you are trying to prove, written as a complete sentence.
evidence	A quote or paraphrase from the text that supports the claim.
quote	The writer's exact words, placed inside quotation marks, with a paragraph number.
paraphrase	The writer's idea in your own words, still tied to a paragraph number.
inference	An idea the text points to even though the writer leaves it unsaid.

A CLAIM WITH EVIDENCE

Claim: The narrator is nervous on the first day.

1. A quote: "My hands shook as I reached for the classroom door" (paragraph 1).
2. A paraphrase: In paragraph 1, the narrator's hands shake at the door.
3. Both pieces of evidence come from the same line, and both support the claim.

Use a quote or a paraphrase, and name the paragraph.

ACE Responses

LEARN

ACE is a way to build a response. Read the steps, then try the short practice under the sample.

ACE

1. Answer the question in a complete sentence.
2. Cite evidence with a quote or a paraphrase and a paragraph number.
3. Explain how that evidence proves your answer.

SENTENCE STARTERS

According to paragraph 2, … The text says, "…" (paragraph 2). This shows that … because …

A FINISHED ACE

Question: How can you tell the town is small?

1. Answer: The town is small enough that everyone knows the narrator.
2. Cite: "The grocer called me by name before I reached the counter" (paragraph 3).
3. Explain: A grocer who already knows a child's name is a sign of a small town.

Answer, cite, explain.

Quote or Paraphrase

GUIDED PRACTICE

Read the passage, then write one quote and one paraphrase that both support the claim.

The Night Bus

by Trailpost

1 The night bus smelled like wet coats and orange peels. Lena sat by the window and counted the stops, because each one meant she was closer to her grandmother's kitchen.

2 At the third stop a man got on with a violin case. He nodded at Lena as if they already shared a secret, then tuned a string so softly that only the two of them could hear it.

1. Claim: Lena is looking forward to arriving. Write a quote from paragraph 1 that supports this claim.

2. Now paraphrase that same idea in your own words, and name the paragraph.

Choose Strong Evidence

PRACTICE ★

Read the passage, and for each claim, circle the strongest piece of evidence.

Concrete That Eats Smog

by Trailpost

1 Some new sidewalks are poured with a cement that breaks down air pollution. The surface holds a catalyst that turns nitrogen oxides into a safer powder when sunlight hits it.

2 A test street in one city cut those gases by about a quarter in a year. The sidewalk still cracks in winter, and it costs more than ordinary cement, so cities pick busy corners first.

1. Claim: The sidewalks can reduce pollution. Which piece of evidence is strongest for this claim?

- (A) The sidewalk still cracks in winter.
- (B) A test street cut those gases by about a quarter in a year.
- (C) Cities pick busy corners first.
- (D) The cement costs more.

2. Claim: Cities have reasons to use this cement only in some places. Which piece of evidence is strongest for this claim?

- (A) Sunlight hits the sidewalk.
- (B) The surface holds a catalyst.
- (C) It costs more than ordinary cement, so cities pick busy corners first.
- (D) The powder is safer.

Infer and Cite

PRACTICE ★★

Read the passage, then answer each question with a claim and a citation. An inference is an idea the writer leaves unsaid.

After the Recital

by Trailpost

1 Marco folded the program until the crease went white. His sister had played last, and the applause was still sitting in the hall like warm air.

2 He waited by the side door with her coat over his arm. When she came out he said only, "You remembered the middle part," and she laughed as if that were the whole review.

1. What can you infer about how Marco felt during the recital, and which line from the passage points to that idea?

2. What can you infer about the relationship between Marco and his sister, and which line from the passage points to that idea?

Sort Strong and Weak Evidence

CUT AND PASTE

The claim is: Students need more sleep. Cut out the cards and glue each one under Strong evidence or Weak evidence.

Strong evidence	Weak evidence

✂

Sleep helps the brain store new facts.	One class delayed the bell and tardies dropped.
Some people drink coffee.	A study found teens who slept 9 hours scored higher on morning tests.
I like staying up on weekends.	Beds come in many colors.
Doctors recommend 8 to 10 hours of sleep for teens.	My cousin stays up late.

Match the Claim to the Evidence

MATCH

Read each claim on the left. Find the evidence on the right that supports it, and write the letter on the line.

CLAIM		EVIDENCE
1. The town flooded quickly.	_____	**A** She names every tomato plant and checks them twice a day.
2. The narrator is proud of the garden.	_____	**B** "Water reached the steps in twenty minutes" (paragraph 2).
3. The experiment failed on the first try.	_____	**C** They sat on the bench with their heads down and their laces still tied.
4. The team was tired.	_____	**D** "Even the clock seemed to whisper" (paragraph 1).
5. The library is a quiet place.	_____	**E** It sniffed every chair before it would lie down.
6. The puppy is new to the house.	_____	**F** "The mixture stayed cloudy, so we started over" (paragraph 4).

Evidence Riddle

RIDDLE

Write the word that fits each clue. The first letters, in order, answer the riddle.

What do you do with a line that proves your claim?

____ ____ ____ ____
1 2 3 4

CODE TABLE

Answer	Cite	Evidence	Inference	Quote	Text
A	C	E	I	Q	T

1. The ACE step that uses a paragraph number: _____
2. An idea the text points to even though the writer leaves it unsaid: _____
3. The passage you pull a line from: _____
4. A fact from the passage that supports a claim: _____

Write an ACE Response

APPLY

Read the passage, then write one ACE response. Use a paragraph number in your citation.

Shade on the Block

by Trailpost

1 A street with a full row of trees can be several degrees cooler than a street with only pavement. Leaves block sun, and water leaving the leaves cools the air the way sweat cools skin.

2 Cities that plant trees on the hottest blocks also see people walk more in July. Shade makes a bus stop usable, and a usable stop means more riders.

1. How do trees help a city in summer? Write an ACE response that uses a paragraph number.

Trees help a city in summer because _____. According to paragraph __, "_____". This shows that _____.

Find the Mistake

ERROR ANALYSIS ★★

Each box shows a student's ACE response. Tell what is missing, then write the step the right way.

Sam's ACE about Shade on the Block

Answer: Trees help a city.

Cite: Trees are nice.

Explain: That is why I like trees.

1. What is missing from Sam's cite and explain steps?

2. Rewrite the cite step with a quote and a paragraph number.

YOUR WORK

Lila's ACE about Shade on the Block

Answer: Trees help a city in summer.

Cite: Paragraph 2 talks about walking.

Explain: So trees are good.

3. What is missing from Lila's cite and explain steps?

4. Rewrite the explain step so it links the evidence to the claim.

YOUR WORK

Explain How You Choose

WRITE ABOUT IT

Answer each question in complete sentences. Use the words claim, evidence, quote, and paraphrase.

1. How do you decide that one line of evidence is stronger than another?

2. When do you quote the writer's words, and when do you paraphrase?

Mixed Review

REVIEW

Read the passage, then answer each question in a complete sentence.

The First Radio

by Trailpost

1 Early radios were the size of a suitcase and needed a long outdoor wire. Families still gathered around them at night, because the box brought voices from cities they had only heard about.

2 When smaller radios arrived, people took the news to the porch and the ball game to the kitchen. The living room stopped being the only place a family heard the world.

1. Write a quote from paragraph 1 that shows radios felt worth the trouble.

2. Write a paraphrase of paragraph 2.

3. Write one ACE sentence that answers this question: How did smaller radios change family life?

Exit Tickets

CHECK

Your teacher will cut this page on the dotted line so each student gets one ticket. Read the lines and write a cite step.

Text Evidence Exit Ticket

Name _____

From The Night Bus

1 Lena sat by the window and counted the stops, because each one meant she was closer to her grandmother's kitchen.

1. Claim: Lena is looking forward to arriving. Write a cite step that uses a line from the passage.

Text Evidence Exit Ticket

Name _____

From The Night Bus

1 Lena sat by the window and counted the stops, because each one meant she was closer to her grandmother's kitchen.

1. Claim: Lena is looking forward to arriving. Write a cite step that uses a line from the passage.

How Did I Do?

SELF-CHECK

Read each skill and put a check in the box that fits you best. Then answer the two questions at the bottom of the page.

Skill	I can do this on my own.	I can do this with a little help.	I am still learning this.
I can tell a quote from a paraphrase.	☐	☐	☐
I can choose the strongest evidence for a claim.	☐	☐	☐
I can write an ACE response with a paragraph number.	☐	☐	☐
I can make an inference and cite the line that points to it.	☐	☐	☐
I can fix a response that leaves the passage behind.	☐	☐	☐

1. Which skill do you want to practice more, and why?

2. Which sentence starter from this packet will you use next, and why?