

Name: _____ Date: _____

How to Use Text Evidence

When you write about something you have read, you need to use **text evidence**—that is, details from the text—to support the points you are making. You can use text evidence in the form of a direct quotation (the author’s exact words) or a paraphrase (a restatement of what the author wrote). You also need to explain **WHY** that text evidence is relevant.

Here are some tips for using text evidence:

1. Quote or paraphrase.

When using a **direct quote**, copy down the exact words from a sentence. Surround a direct quotation with quotation marks.

To **paraphrase** is to put something written or spoken by someone else into your own words. You don’t change the meaning of what the other person wrote or said, just the wording. A paraphrase is not surrounded by quotation marks.

2. Make it clear where your evidence comes from.

Identify who wrote or said what you are quoting or paraphrasing. This is called **“citing your source.”** Include a page number.

Words to help you:

*according to (the author),
(the author) claims,
suggests, states, writes,
reports, describes, implies,
explains, argues, declares,
observes, notes, reveals,
remarks*

3. Explain why your text evidence is relevant.

Include a sentence that makes it clear how the text evidence supports your idea. Reread the information you quoted or paraphrased and ask yourself, “So what?”

Words to help you:

*(the author) says this
because, this proves that,
this exemplifies how, this
confirms, demonstrates,
describes, explains,
illustrates, implies,
suggests*