

Introducing Evidence

There are many ways to incorporate evidence into an essay. Below you will find an explanation of what evidence is, what verb tenses to use, and examples for your writing.

Evidence

- Evidence refers to information taken from a source
- Evidence is always cited in the body of the essay
- Types of evidence:
 - Quotations – The author's exact words, placed in quotation marks and cited
 - Paraphrases – The author's ideas, put into your own words and cited
 - Statistics – Any number taken from a source and cited

Verb Tense

Note: Always follow your professor's guidelines regarding verb tense and keep the verb tense consistent

- When writing about literature and film, write in the *present tense* (Garcia says...)
- When writing a research paper use the *past tense* (Garcia said...)

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Note: Examples are shown in MLA format

- Examples of how to introduce a quote or paraphrase in the sentence:
 - According to Batten, the "quote" or paraphrase goes here
 - Batten discusses ...
 - Other verbs: Demonstrates, illustrates, argues, notes, mentions, concludes
 - States (refers to a statement-only use to introduce a quote, but not a paraphrase)
- Examples of introducing evidence and citing at the end of the sentence:
 - The author discussed that... (Garcia 45).
 - The authors demonstrated that... (Jackson et al. 98).

Analysis

- Analysis is the text that comes after your evidence
- Analysis is not a summary
- Analysis is an explanation of why your evidence is relevant to the topic of the paragraph and how it supports the thesis
- Example phrases for introducing analysis or explanation of evidence:
 - In other words...
 - The authors' discussion is relevant because...
 - The authors' example demonstrates...
 - Therefore...
 - Thus...
 - For example...