

KEEP THIS ALL YEAR! DO NOT THROW AWAY! KEEP THIS ALL YEAR! DO NOT THROW AWAY!

How to Use Text Evidence in a Formal Paragraph

Directions: Highlight each part of the example paragraph and label the part to the side.

Example:

<p>Cats killing birds has become a problem, but any solution to the problem will be controversial. This idea was supported using research from a scientist working for the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Washington, D.C. For example, the author points out, "Cats kill between 1.4 billion and 3.7 billion every year." The author's use of that statistic really catches a reader's eye because they are such big numbers, so it shows just how big the problem is. Then, in the second paragraph, the author says that people suggest either "performing minor surgery to make them unable to reproduce" or "killing feral cats." The author was demonstrating that the possible solutions are controversial because most people would not like the idea of cats being caught in order to either operate on them or kill them. In conclusion, the author's purpose was to inform the audience that this serious problem is not easily solved.</p>	
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- Rule: You must introduce a quote (text evidence) . The quote cannot start the sentence!

Example: For example, the author points out, "Cats kill..."

Sentence starters for introducing quotes:

- In the first paragraph, the author says, " ____."
 - For example, the text states, " ____."
 - Later in the text, the author says, " ____."
 - Another example is when the article describes, " __."
- Rule: Generally, a comma is used right before the quote begins (see above) unless the quote "finishes" a sentence.

Example: Some people suggest "performing minor surgery" to fix the problem.

- Rule: You must explain what in your quote connects to your main idea.

Example: The author's use of that statistic really catches a reader's eye because they are such big numbers...

Sentence starters for explanations:

- This quote shows...
- This is because...
- This means...
- This description reveals...
- This evidence illustrates...
- This highlights the difference between...

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