

Evidence Based Essay Writing

English 8





Evidence Based Writing

An evidence-based essay aims to present your opinion on the topic and persuade your readers to accept your assertion. When writing a persuasive, analytical, or argumentative essay, you must use evidence to support your points.

It is well-structured, well-organized, informative, and supported by credible sources.



Key Points for Evidence-Based Essay:

- You must take your position on the subject
- You defend your stance and persuade readers
- You must pick your evidence carefully
- The reader must be guided by the use of evidence



In text Citations

When using a direct quote or paraphrasing information from a source, include an in-text citation into the body of your project, immediately following it.

In-text citation may look similar to this:

Author's Last name states that "direct quote" or paraphrase (page number).

OR

"Direct quote" or paraphrase (Author's Last name, Page number).



5 Paragraph Format

Paragraph 1:

Sentence one - A hook to catch the reader's attention

Sentence 2 and 3 - summarizing the text you have read.

Sentence 4 - Your Thesis statement (Rewording the question you are supporting with three reasons why)



5 Paragraph Format - Paragraph 2

Sentence 1 - Transition sentence to begin talking about your first piece of textual evidence that supports the thesis statement. (use words like although, yet, nonetheless)

Sentence 2 - Introduce your first piece of evidence. (“According to” include your evidence in the quotation)

Sentence 3 - Explain why you used that evidence

Sentence 4 - Continue explaining your evidence, use an example that supports your stance



5 Paragraph Format - Paragraph 3

Sentence 1 - Transition sentence to begin talking about your first piece of textual evidence that supports the thesis statement. (use words like likewise, similarly, another was this can be seen)

Sentence 2 - Introduce your Second piece of evidence. (“In (article name) It says” include your evidence in the quotation)

Sentence 3 - Explain why you used that evidence

Sentence 4/5- Continue explaining your evidence, use an example that supports your stance and sum up all that you have said in this paragraph



5 Paragraph Format - Paragraph 4

Sentence 1 - Transition sentence to begin talking about your first piece of textual evidence that supports the thesis statement. (use words like likewise, similarly, another was this can be seen)

Sentence 2 - Introduce your third piece of evidence. (“The text stated that... ..” include your evidence in the quotation)

Sentence 3 - Explain why you used that evidence

Sentence 4/5- Continue explaining your evidence, use an example that supports your stance and sum up all that you have said in this paragraph



5 Paragraph Format - Paragraph 5

Sentence 1 - Restate your thesis statement. You might start with “In conclusion.....” ****but a stronger stance is to get right down to business...***

Sentence 2 - Summarize what you wrote in paragraph 2

Sentence 3 - Summarize what you wrote in paragraph 3

Sentence 4 - Summarize what you wrote in paragraph 4

Sentence 5 - “Put a bow on” you essay by summing everything up.



References (Works Cited)

Reference page - Is the last page of the essay.

It includes all citations used in the essay in alphabetical order following the blueprint we went over in the previous class.



How do Cite a Website?

Basic Format

The general structure for citing a web page in MLA 9th edition is:

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Web Page." *Title of Website*, Publisher (if different from website name), Day Month Year, URL. Accessed Day Month Year

- **Author:** If no individual author is listed, start with the page title.
- **Title of Web Page:** Place in quotation marks.
- **Title of Website:** Italicize the website name.
- **Publisher:** Include only if it differs from the website name.
- **Publication Date:** Use the day-month-year format. If no date is available, use "n.d."
- **URL:** Include the full web address; minus the "https://".
- **Access Date:** Optional, recommended if content is likely to change over time.



How do Cite a Website?

Examples

With an author and publication date:

Smith, John. "Climate Change Facts." *NASA*, 15 May 2023, www.nasa.gov/climate.

Without an author:

"Global Recycling Statistics." *Earth Policy Institute*, 10 Jan. 2022, www.earthpolicy.org/recycling-stats.

With no publication date:

Johnson, Emily. "Urban Gardening Tips." *Green Living Blog*, n.d., www.greenlivingblog.com/urban-gardening. Accessed 17 Feb. 2026. (Don't do this - make sure I can click)



How do Cite a Website?

Tips

- Always cite the **specific page** you used, not just the homepage.
- Keep a personal copy or bookmark the page in case it changes or is removed.
- For multiple pages from the same website, create separate entries for each page.
- Following these guidelines ensures your MLA citations are accurate, consistent, and verifiable for readers