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|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rubric Category        | Development                  |
| Grade/Score            | Grades 6-12 / Scores 2 and 3 |
| Rubric Category        | Language and Syntax          |
| Grade/Score            | Grades 6-12 / Scores 2 and 3 |
| CCSS Writing Standards | W1, W1b, W1c, W1d            |
| Argument Type          | All arguments                |

# Incorporating Evidence Smoothly

*Students practice varied ways to incorporate textual evidence in supporting a claim.*

## Understanding the Expectations

The power of an argument lies in a coordinated dance among claim (your position), warrant (how the evidence connects to your claim), and evidence. The claim is fueled by reliable textual evidence that harmonizes with convincing analysis.

Your options when incorporating evidence typically include three choices:

1. paraphrasing evidence from sources (putting it into your own words)
2. directly quoting excerpts from texts (using the exact words from a text)
3. embedding partial quotations within the context of your prose

Read the following excerpt from the article “Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?” by Jean M. Twenge, where she makes the argument that smartphones have had a larger effect on youth than many people realize:

*The arrival of the smartphone has radically changed every aspect of teenagers' lives, from the nature of their social interactions to their mental health. These changes have affected young people in every corner of the nation and in every type of household. The trends appear among teens poor and rich; of every ethnic background; in cities, suburbs, and small towns. Where there are cell towers, there are teens living their lives on their smartphone.*

A writer might incorporate textual evidence from this source in several ways:

### Strategy 1

First, you can *paraphrase* an idea and put it into your own words:

The availability of smartphones and tablets has affected the social lives and mental health of American teenagers across all demographics.

### Strategy 2

Another option is to directly quote an excerpt from the text:

In her article "Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?" Jean M. Twenge observes, "The arrival of the smartphone has radically changed every aspect of teenagers' lives, from the nature of their social interactions to their mental health. These changes have affected young people in every corner of the nation and in every type of household."

### Strategy 3

Lastly, you can also combine your own sentence with partial quotations from the text, as long as you don't change the author's meaning. Here's an example of that:

Smartphones and tablets have affected American teenagers "of every ethnic background; in cities, suburbs, and small towns." No demographic is immune to this trend because "[w]here there are cell towers, there are teens living their lives on their smartphone."

What do you notice about each of these examples? What makes them effective? For now, which technique do you prefer? Why?

## Trying It Out

Look at how the quotation is introduced in example #2 above: In her article "Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?" Jean M. Twenge **observes**...

“Observes” is a signal word that a quotation is about to follow. What are some signal verbs that are useful when introducing textual evidence? Review some of the following, brainstorm some other options, and share with a partner, if you have the opportunity:

|           |          |           |              |           |
|-----------|----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| argues    | writes   | concludes | demonstrates | claims    |
| implies   | observes | notes     | conveys      | indicates |
| maintains | insists  | explains  | suggests     | states    |
| counters  | reveals  | asserts   | debates      | denotes   |

Sometimes we use whole phrases and sentence stems when introducing a quotation. What sentence stems are helpful when introducing textual evidence? Review some of the following, brainstorm some other options, and share with a partner, if you have the opportunity:

For example, “...”

For instance...

Further evidence indicates...

As noted on page...

When the author states, “...”

1. Using one of your sources for a work in progress, select an excerpt to use as textual evidence. For each of the strategies below, consult the example above for reference.
2. Apply Strategy 1 (Paraphrase)
  - Take note of the key information you need from your excerpt.
  - Write a sentence in your own words that still includes the information.
  - Be sure to use distinctly different words. It is helpful to rearrange syntax, or the pattern of words, as well.
3. Apply Strategy 2 (Direct Quotation)
  - Select a sentence or two from your excerpt.
  - Decide which sentence stem will work best.
  - Set your sentence stem with your quotation, using quotation marks around the directly quoted sentence(s).

4. Apply Strategy 3 (Embedded Quotation)

- Select a sentence from the excerpt that contains information you wish to cite.
- Decide on a sentence stem or signal word.
- Craft a sentence that is partially in your own words and also includes key phrases that are quoted from the original sentence.
- Be sure to use quotation marks around the portion of your sentence that contains a directly quoted phrase.

Regroup: Out of the three options, which do you find conveys evidence most convincingly? Why? The goal of this discussion is to understand why the most dynamic and effective writing will use all three options.

## Part 3

### Writing it Up

Now that you have gained some practice in quoting textual evidence in three strategic ways, you are ready to apply these methods to your paper as a whole. If you are early in the writing process for your paper, review your sources for textual evidence that you may use in your writing. As you write, be mindful of how best to use your evidence. Try to use a variety of strategies to keep your style fresh, alternating the use of paraphrase with direct and embedded quotations.

If you are in a later stage of drafting, review how you have incorporated evidence. Make changes as necessary to ensure that you are using a variety of all three strategies to quote your textual evidence.