ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Supporting evidence

Difficulty level: Advanced

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you back up a claim in an essay or an argument, like showing the facts or the quote that proves your point, so readers believe you instead of just taking your word for it. A claim on its own is just an opinion, but the same claim with evidence behind it is an argument. The evidence has to match the claim and come from a place the reader can trust. That is what turns an essay from a list of opinions into something a reader can actually believe.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Add evidence to this claim: 'Exercise is healthy.'

SOLUTION

Ask: what fact supports the claim? Exercise strengthens the heart.

State the fact after the claim.

So: Exercise is healthy. For example, regular exercise strengthens the heart and improves sleep.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Add evidence to this claim: 'Reading helps learning.'

SOLUTION

Ask: what fact supports the claim? Books contain information and new words.

State the fact after the claim.

So: Reading helps learning. For example, books teach new words and ideas.

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Practice questions

1 Add evidence to: 'Trees help the environment.' (give one fact)

- **A** Trees use up all the water.
- **B** Trees make the air dirtier.
- **C** Trees clean the air and give shade.
- **D** Trees give shade but pollute the air.

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2 Add evidence to: 'Recycling helps the planet.' (give one fact)

- **A** Recycling one tonne of paper saves trees.
- **B** Recycling uses more trees.
- **C** Recycling paper harms the planet.
- **D** Recycling saves no trees at all.

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3 Add evidence to: 'Sleep helps students.' (give one fact)

- A Sleep makes memory worse.
- B Sleep helps memory and focus.
- C Sleep helps only focus.
- D Students learn best without sleep.

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4 Add evidence to: 'Libraries are useful.' (give one fact)

- A Libraries only sell books.
- B Libraries lend books but have no study space.
- C Libraries are closed to students.
- D Libraries lend books and offer study space.

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5 Add evidence to: 'Practice improves skill.' (give one fact)

- **A** Regular practice leads to steady improvement.
- **B** Practice makes skill worse.
- **C** One practice session is enough for mastery.
- **D** Practice helps only at the start.

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6 Add evidence to: 'Healthy food helps the body.' (give one fact)

- **A** Healthy food gives vitamins but no energy.
- **B** Healthy food drains energy.
- **C** Healthy food gives energy and vitamins.
- **D** Healthy food has no vitamins.

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7 Add evidence to: 'Friends are important.' (give one fact)

- **A** Friends are only for good times.
- **B** Friends give support in hard times.
- **C** Friends give support but never listen.
- **D** Friends make hard times worse.

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8 Add evidence to: 'Saving money is wise.' (give one fact)

- **A** Saved money can never be spent.
- **B** Saving money leaves nothing for the future.
- **C** Saved money is always lost.
- **D** Saved money can pay for future needs.

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9 Add evidence to: 'Bees help farmers.' (give one fact)

- **A** Bees pollinate crops that farmers grow.
- **B** Bees eat the crops farmers grow.
- **C** Bees pollinate only wild flowers.
- **D** Bees harm the crops they visit.

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10 Add evidence to: 'Exercise lifts mood.' (give one fact)

- **A** Exercise releases chemicals that worsen mood.
- **B** Exercise has no effect on mood.
- **C** Exercise releases chemicals linked to better mood.
- **D** Exercise only tires the body.

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ANSWER KEY

1. Trees clean the air and give shade.
2. Recycling one tonne of paper saves trees.
3. Sleep helps memory and focus.
4. Libraries lend books and offer study space.
5. Regular practice leads to steady improvement.
6. Healthy food gives energy and vitamins.
7. Friends give support in hard times.
8. Saved money can pay for future needs.
9. Bees pollinate crops that farmers grow.
10. Exercise releases chemicals linked to better mood.

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