

WRITING: THE BASICS - TEXTUAL EVIDENCE AND I.C.E.

Unit Key Vocabulary:

explicit textual evidence
direct quote
paraphrase
I.C.E.
introduce
cite
explain
simple sentence
compound sentence

Unit Overview

In this unit, you will learn how to incorporate textual evidence into a piece of writing. At the end of the unit, you will review simple and compound sentences. Above you will find a list of key vocabulary for this unit.

*Download the attached pdf to take notes during the lesson.



Textual Evidence

When we have ideas about what we read, we need to cite **Explicit Textual Evidence** to support our ideas.

When we read, we often are asked to answer questions or express our ideas about the text. In order to let people know we aren't making stuff up, we should use **Explicit Textual Evidence** to support our opinions or answers.

In real life, people who can back up an opinion about a text with **Explicit Textual Evidence** are taken more seriously than people who can only give a reason of “just because.”

On the AIR Assessment you will be asked to write a multi-paragraph response to a prompt. In order to prove that you understand both the prompt and the passages, you will need to include **Explicit Textual Evidence** to support your ideas in your writing. In fact, much of the body of your essay will be made up of **Explicit Textual Evidence**.

So, what does **Explicit Textual Evidence** mean?

The name really says it all.

Explicit = direct facts

Textual = from the text

Evidence = that support for your answer, opinion, or idea

Giving **Explicit Textual Evidence** about your answers or opinions regarding a text is pretty simple. You just have to do three things:

1. **State your idea:** State the idea you had about the text based on the prompt.
2. **Cite what in the text led you to that idea:** Give supporting evidence from the text (by paraphrasing or directly quoting from the text).
 - To **paraphrase** is to express the meaning of (the writer or speaker or something written or spoken) using different words.
 - To **directly quote** means that you reproduce the words of another writer exactly and is displayed in quotation marks.
3. **Explain the Evidence:** Explain how the quote(s) or paraphrase(s) you pointed out support your idea.

STOP! Complete Questions 1 through 7 in the questions section.

Let's Practice!

Think about the following question as you read the following excerpt from an article from the Washington Post.

Question: Is video game addiction a real problem?

The Washington Post Video-game addiction a real problem, study finds

About 8.5 percent of youths affected, according to researcher

A new study concludes that children can become addicted to playing video games, with some skimping on homework, lying about how much they play and struggling, without success, when they try to cut back.

In what is described as the first nationally representative study in the United States on the subject, researcher Douglas Gentile of Iowa State University found that 8.5 percent of American youths ages 8 to 18 who play video games show multiple signs of behavioral addiction.

Question	My Answer	Explicit Textual Evidence
<i>Is video game addiction a real problem?</i>	Video game addiction is a real problem.	

(answer below)

Question	My Answer	Explicit Textual Evidence
<p><i>Is video game addiction a real problem?</i></p>	<p>Video game addiction is a real problem.</p>	<p><i>"A new study concludes that children can become addicted to playing video games, with some skimping on homework, lying about how much they play and struggling, without success, when they try to cut back."</i></p>

STOP! Complete Question 8 in the questions section.

I.C.E. (Introduce, Cite, Explain)



Now that you understand the importance of including textual evidence in your writing, you are going to learn how to incorporate that evidence into your writing seamlessly.

When incorporating your textual evidence, all you have to remember is **I.C.E.** Introduce. Cite. Explain.

The **I.C.E.** acronym helps writers remember to communicate the ideas of other scholars in an orderly way:

INTRODUCE: Introduce all your quotes using introductory phrases. Here are

some examples: (*the introduction is bolded*)

- **In the article titled, These Foods Aren't Genetically Modified but They Are 'Edited', Kenneth Chang argues that** the new generation of modified foods are harmless since they merely “snip” and “trim” at precise locations of DNA (NYT Web).
- **In his poem “To Helen” Edgar Allen Poe writes,** “Lo! in yon brilliant window-niche/How statuelike I see thee stand” (125).

CITE: Provide appropriate parenthetical citations for all quotes and paraphrases. Here are some guidelines for MLA style citation: (*the citation is bolded*)

- **If the author's name appears in the introduction to the quote or in the paraphrase,** it doesn't have to appear in the parenthetical reference, *as the citations above illustrate.*
- **If the author's name does *not* appear in the introduction to the quote,** the name must appear in the parenthetical reference. See the following example of a cited paraphrase:
 - Some teachers take points off of your final paper grade if you don't cite paraphrased or quoted material correctly (**Smith 1**).
 - In the article titled, These Foods Aren't Genetically Modified but They Are 'Edited', Kenneth Chang argues that the new generation of modified foods are harmless since they merely “snip” and “trim” at precise locations of DNA (**NYT Web**).
 - In his poem “To Helen” Edgar Allen Poe writes, “Lo! in yon brilliant window-niche/How statuelike I see thee stand” (**125**).

For more practice using MLA citations, click on the following link.



[\(answer key\)](#)

EXPLAIN: Make sure to explain your quotes. Provide analysis that ties them back to your main idea / topic sentence. In other words, comment on the evidence in order to incorporate it into the essay you're writing. Here are some examples: *(the explanation is bolded)*

- In his poem “To Helen” Edgar Allen Poe writes, “Lo! in yon brilliant window-niche/How statuelike I see thee stand” (125). **To liken someone to a statue is a compliment, and this is just one of the compliments on which he is showering her.**
- According to Graeme McMillian, “...online Americans tend to have 664 ties on average, compared with an offline average of around 506” (23). **In making this comment, McMillian demonstrates that people are exposed to more possible friendships through the internet.**

Here's an example of a whole academic body paragraph that illustrates ICE: introduction, citation, and explanation:

Example 1:

Helen of Troy's beauty is compared to commonly pretty items to accentuate her beauty in Edgar Allen Poe's poem, "To Helen". Poe writes, "Lo! in yon brilliant window-niche/How statuelike I see thee stand" (125). To liken someone to a statue is a compliment, and this is just one of the compliments on which he is showering her. To conclude his ode, Poe adds, "Ah, Psyche, from the regions which/Are Holy Land" (125). A Psyche was a woman who captivated Cupid (god of Love). In other words, Poe believes that Helen's beauty is truly captivating. Overall, Edgar Allan Poe showers enormous compliments to Helen and her beauty.

Example 2:

Internet users have the ability to make more friends online. According to Graeme McMillian, "...online Americans tend to have 664 ties on average, compared with an offline average of around 506" (23). In making this comment, McMillian demonstrates that people are exposed to more possible friendships through the internet. Further, McMillan states that "...those online... reported an average of 2.26 close friends to the offline respondents 1.75" (22). In other words, he continues to establish that genuine close friendships can be made online. The studies on this subject have all come to similar conclusions- people develop numerically more friends online than in person.

Here is a chart to help you INTRODUCE your textual evidence and EXPLAIN how that evidence supports your answer.

To INTRODUCE textual evidence	To EXPLAIN or ELABORATE on textual evidence
<p>As stated in <i>[text name]</i>...</p> <p>According to <i>[author's name OR character's name]</i>...</p> <p><i>[author's name OR character's name]</i> states...</p> <p>In <i>[text name]</i>, <i>[author's name OR character's name]</i> illustrates...</p> <p>In <i>[text name]</i>, <i>[author's name OR character's name]</i> exemplifies...</p> <p>In <i>[text name]</i>, <i>[author's name OR character's name]</i> demonstrates...</p> <p><i>[author's name OR character's name]</i> argues...</p> <p><i>[author's name OR character's name]</i> establishes...</p> <p><i>[author's name OR character's name]</i> reasons...</p> <p><i>[author's name OR character's name]</i> explains...</p>	<p>In other words...</p> <p>This reveals...</p> <p>This fact shows...</p> <p>This detail illustrates...</p> <p>By using this example, <i>[author's name]</i> shows...</p> <p>In making this comment, <i>[author's name]</i> demonstrates...</p> <p>Generally speaking <i>[author's name]</i> is agreeing/supporting/confirming that...</p> <p>In this situation <i>[author's name]</i>'s point is that...</p> <p>Admittedly, the essence of <i>[author's name]</i>'s claim is that</p>

Let's Practice!

Question	My Idea	Explicit Textual Evidence
<i>Is video game addiction a real problem?</i>	Video game addiction is a real problem.	"A new study concludes that children can become addicted to playing video games, with some skimping on homework, lying about how much they play and struggling, without success, when they try to cut back."

We answered the question and supported our answer with textual evidence. The only thing left to do is turn it into a paragraph with I.C.E.

Video game addiction is a real problem. According to The Washington Post, "A new study concludes that children can become addicted to playing video games, with some skimping on homework, lying about how much they play and struggling, without success, when they try to cut back" (1). In other words, video game addiction can cause children to fall behind academically while becoming deceitful at the same time.

I.C.E.- Introduce

I.C.E.- Introduce

Video game addiction is a real problem. **According to The Washington Post**, “A new study concludes that children can become addicted to playing video games, with some skimping on homework, lying about how much they play and struggling, without success, when they try to cut back” (1). In other words, video game addiction can cause children to fall behind academically while becoming deceitful at the same time.

I.C.E.- Cite

I.C.E.- Cite

Video game addiction is a real problem. According to The [Washington Post](#), “A new study concludes that children can become addicted to playing video games, with some skimping on homework, lying about how much they play and struggling, without success, when they try to cut back” (1). In other words, video game addiction can cause children to fall behind academically while becoming deceitful at the same time.

I.C.E.- Explain

I.C.E.- Explain

Video game addiction is a real problem. According to The Washington Post, “A new study concludes that children can become addicted to playing video games, with some skimping on homework, lying about how much they play and struggling, without success, when they try to cut back” (1). ***In other words, video game addiction can cause children to fall behind academically while becoming deceitful at the same time.***

STOP! Complete Questions 9 through 15 in the questions section.

Grammar Lesson 3: SIMPLE & COMPOUND SENTENCES

- A **simple sentence** contains only one independent clause.
- A **compound sentence** contains two independent clauses.
- Two independent clauses can be combined using either a comma and a coordinating conjunction or a semi-colon.

Let's Practice!

1. Identify if the sentence is simple OR compound. Then **highlight** the main subject(s) and underline the main verb(s).

Bugs are consumed around the world as a healthy source of protein.

(Answer is below)

SIMPLE

Bugs are consumed around the world as a healthy source of protein.

2. Identify if the sentence is simple OR compound. Then **highlight** the main subject(s) and underline the main verb(s).

Fuzzy caterpillars should turn into beautiful butterflies, but we don't want to eat them in a mouthful of frozen spinach.

(Answer is below)

COMPOUND

Fuzzy **caterpillars** should turn into beautiful butterflies, but **we** don't want to eat them in a mouthful of frozen spinach.

STOP! Complete Questions 16 through 19 in the questions section.



Below are additional educational resources and activities for this unit.

[Simple and Compound Sentences](#)