Reference Sheet: Ways Authors use Evidence

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1. **Illustrating** –- When writers use specific examples or facts from a text to support what they want to say.

Sentence Stems:

* *“\_\_\_\_\_ argues that \_\_\_\_\_\_.”*
* *“\_\_\_\_\_ claims that \_\_\_\_\_\_”*
* *“\_\_\_\_\_ acknowledges that \_\_\_\_\_\_”*
* *“\_\_\_\_\_ emphasizes that \_\_\_\_\_\_”*
* *“\_\_\_\_\_ tells the story of \_\_\_\_\_\_ “*
* *“\_\_\_\_\_ reports that \_\_\_\_\_\_”*
* *“\_\_\_\_\_ believes that \_\_\_\_\_\_”*

1. **Authorizing** –- When writers quote an expert or use the credibility or status of a source to support their claims.

Examples:

* *Joseph Bauxbaum, a researcher at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, found …*
* *According to Susan Smith, principal of a school which encourages student cell phone use, …*
* *A study conducted by the Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy Center, a non-profit organization which monitors environmental issues, revealed that …*

Sentence Stems:

* [NAME], [position or description that demonstrates expertise], found that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* According to [NAME], [position or description that demonstrates expertise], “--------------------------------------.”
* A study conducted by [ORGANIZATION’s NAME], [description of their purpose or expertise], shows that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. **Countering** -– When a writer “pushes back” against the text in some way, by disagreeing with it, challenging something it says, or interpreting it differently than the author does.

Example:

* *While parent groups often portray gaming negatively, recent brain research indicates there are positive effects.*

**Sentence Stems:**

**Acknowledge the opposition, then refute it:**

* + *While many people think \_\_\_\_, the research actually shows…*

**Or summarize the opposition, then give your case:**

* + *\_\_\_\_* argues that \_\_\_\_. *What the author fails to consider is …  
     \_\_\_\_* says that \_\_\_\_. *This is true, but …*
  + *\_\_\_\_* suggests that \_\_\_\_. *The author doesn’t explain why ….*
  + *\_\_\_\_* argues that \_\_\_\_. *Another way to look at this is …*
  + *\_\_\_\_* found that \_\_\_\_. *However, the study doesn’t explore the connections between …*