

**Types of Evidence:**

* Numbers and statistics (measurements, date and time, game scores, voting polls, etc.)
* Names (places, individuals, organizations, etc.)
* Expert opinion
* Specialized knowledge (knowledge the author has through training or experience)
* Individual stories/examples
* Physical details (things you can see, hear, touch, taste or smell)
* Documentary evidence (letters, diaries, laws, speeches, interviews, etc.)

**Evaluating Evidence: Is this good evidence or not?**

1. Is the evidence *sufficient?* Is there enough of it, or do you need more to feel convinced?
2. Is the evidence *relevant?* Is it really about the claim the author wants to prove, or did they go off on a tangent, providing facts that don’t have anything to do with the claim?
3. Is the evidence *representative?*  *Representative* evidence is evidence that accurately portrays the object of study, not distorted and not just a select piece. Does it give us an idea of a majority or is there only a small sample? Can we say this applies to more than one group of people or one type of person?

**Bad Evidence is evidence that**

* Doesn’t connect to your claim
* Comes from an outdated study (is it more than 10 years old?)
* Not a professional opinion – expert vs. general (a scientist vs. your neighbor)
* Small survey vs. large survey (was it of a small town or a large city?)