

Writing With Text Evidence in an Essay - A Sample Paragraph

Strong informational and argumentative essays require students to cite evidence. Evidence in an essay must come from a reliable source. It may be a written primary or secondary source, or visual evidence gained from a political cartoon, photo, or video. Students must show where this evidence came from by citing the source or using in text citation, along with a works cited page.

Citing Evidence from a Text Source

When integrating a text source, identify the name of the book or article and author. If you use a direct quote or take specific facts or details from a source, cite the source in parenthesis after the quote or information. Use the left hand information from the source citation, such as the author's last name or if that is not available the source title. If you are citing from a book, add the specific page number the quote is from. Be sure that most of the paragraph is your own writing and use evidence to support your idea or claim.

Look at the sample paragraph below, written using an excerpt from Frederick Engels', The Conditions of the Working Class in England in 1844.

The fast growing industrial cities of England were crowded and filthy places in the 19th century. In working class districts people were crowded into tenements. Frederick Engels, in his book The Conditions of the Working Class in England in 1844, describes these buildings as the, "...most horrible dwellings which I have yet beheld" (Engels 45). The huge apartment buildings, packed with hundreds of poor factory workers, had no indoor plumbing. They had an outhouse or a "...privy without a door, so dirty that the inhabitants can pass into and out of the court only by passing through foul pools of stagnant urine and excrement" (Engels 48). Engels goes on to say that the people who lived in these unsanitary neighborhoods contracted cholera, a deadly disease. The nearby streams were polluted with the industrial chemicals from factories and garbage was thrown into the waterways. He concludes his description of Manchester's slums as a hell on earth (Engels 52). England's urban poor faced dirty, cramped living conditions, in a polluted and unhealthy environment.

