

Name:

Section:



Date:

Score:



What is Textual Evidence?



Textual evidence is proof from a story, article, or paragraph that you use to support your ideas.

When you say something about a text, you need to show where you got it from.

Here are some sentence starters and useful phrases for inserting **textual evidence** in your writing.

- According to the text, “...”
- The text says, “...”
- In the passage, it states, “...”
- The author writes, “...”



Let's Practice Using Textual Evidence

Read the following paragraph:



Sarah clutched the flashlight tighter as the wind howled through the trees. Her backpack thumped against her back with every step. “We’ll be fine,” she whispered, but her voice trembled. The path ahead was barely visible.



Question:

How do we know Sarah is nervous?

Write a response using **textual evidence**:

Possible Answer:

We know Sarah is nervous because the text says, “her voice trembled,” which shows she’s scared even though she says, “We’ll be fine.”

Let's Use More Textual Evidence

Read the Paragraph:



Jamal peeked through the curtains for the third time in five minutes. His phone buzzed again—another message from Alex: “Are you ready yet?” Jamal’s stomach twisted. He had been looking forward to the talent show for weeks, but now that it was here, his hands felt cold and his legs wouldn’t stop bouncing. He took a deep breath, grabbed his guitar, and whispered, “Okay... I can do this.”

Answer the Questions with Textual Evidence:

1. How do you know Jamal is nervous? (Use a sentence starter like: According to the text...)
2. How do you know that the talent show is important to Jamal?
3. What does Jamal do at the end of the paragraph that shows he's trying to be brave?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Possible Answers:

How do you know Jamal is nervous?

- According to the text, “his hands felt cold and his legs wouldn't stop bouncing,” which shows that he's feeling nervous.

How do you know that the talent show is important to Jamal?

- The text says, “He had been looking forward to the talent show for weeks,” which shows it matters a lot to him.

What does Jamal do at the end of the paragraph that shows he's trying to be brave?

- One example from the text is when Jamal “grabbed his guitar and whispered, ‘Okay... I can do this.’” This shows he is trying to be brave even though he's nervous.