Freshman English

Essay Prep

A critical aspect of writing a well-developed essay is the textual evidence (quotations) that you use to support your claim. It’s helpful to consider several possible quotations in order to find the **best** evidence. In order to help you select the best evidence (not the most convenient), I am asking that you complete the chart below.

**Section One**

|  |
| --- |
| **Claim/Thesis:** |

Use the chart below to identify the parts of your thesis statement.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Opinion** | **Why/because/so what** |
|  |  |  |

**Section Two**

|  |
| --- |
| **Topic Sentence One (Subtopic One):** |

Find three pieces of evidence to support your topic sentence. Try to locate evidence from various parts of the text.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Say**—What does the text say?  Write and cite the quote. | **Mean**—What does the quote mean? Put the quote into your own words. | **Matter**—What is the significance of the quote in regard to your topic sentence? Think analysis here. |
| 1. |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Topic Sentence Two (Subtopic Two):** |

Find three pieces of evidence to support your topic sentence. Try to locate evidence from various parts of the text.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Say**—What does the text say?  Write and cite the quote. | **Mean**—What does the quote mean? Put the quote into your own words. | **Matter**—What is the significance of the quote in regard to your topic sentence? Think analysis here. |
| 1. |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |