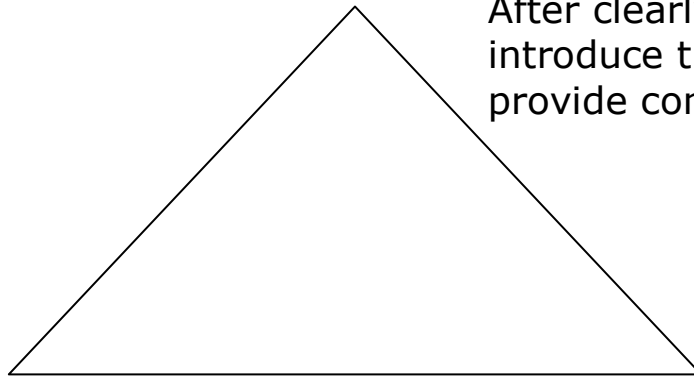


Using Evidence in Writing

Expose

After clearly expressing an idea, introduce the evidence and provide context.



Excerpt

Cite the evidence. If a quotation, introduce it at the beginning of your sentence.

Explain

Provide an explanation of the significance of the Evidence and reveal how the evidence supports your idea.

Examples

Lady Macbeth wants power, and through her control of Macbeth, tries to achieve her goal without experiencing guilt. When Macbeth—witnessing the blood on his own hands—feels remorse for Duncan’s murder, Lady Macbeth chastises him by saying, “A little water clears us of this deed. / How easy it is then!” (2.2.66.67). Although her “hands are of [his] colour” (2.2.63) because she has framed the guards, she does not share Macbeth’s intense guilt since she has avoided committing murder herself.

In *As I Lay Dying*, Cash’s acts of devotion reveal that love, a verb more than a noun, is selfless. Before her death, he toiled to make his mother’s life less burdensome, completing Jewel’s chores—“work that pa still thought Jewel was doing and that ma thought Dewey Dell was doing” (119)—without recognition. As Addie dies, Cash labors unceasingly in the rain, “soaked, scrawny, and tireless” (69), to construct a coffin that will provide a fitting burial for his mother. Cash functions without concern for himself and conveys the theme that love involves action instead of words.