Presenting Supportive Evidence

Learning the Skill

Prove it! These words can be heard in school hallways in response to someone’s opinion (“I’m a better basketball player than you.”). But they also are valid words to remember whenever you write. This statement is another way of saying “show the reader the evidence.” Writers need to provide evidence to support their arguments in favor of or against an opinion or to support a particular position statement.

What do writers use as evidence?

- **Logic:** The more you practice, the better you play. Bret practices three hours a day—so it makes sense that he’s the best.
- **Expert opinion:** Coach Waller says, “Bret is the best athlete I’ve coached in ten years.”
- **Facts:** Bret’s regular season free-throw percentage is 93 percent—which tops all starters in the Northeastern League.
- **Personal observation:** When Bret is in the game, the team seems to play with renewed energy and concentration.

Practicing the Skill

**Directions:** Read the position statement and supporting evidence below. Then match each piece of evidence to its type by writing the appropriate letter on the space provided.

**Position Statement:** Russia’s president Vladimir Putin does not favor democracy.

**Supporting Evidence**

___ 1. When people criticized Putin’s policies, he shut down all independent television news networks.
___ 2. I’ve noticed that some of Putin’s efforts to strengthen his power are similar to attempts by dictators in other countries.
___ 3. Historian Ann Giles writes, “Putin’s ability to issue decrees that need no legislative approval is further evidence that he will not tolerate opposition.”
___ 4. When leaders appoint their own governors, this is usually a sign that they want everyone to think the same way.

**Type of Evidence**

A. Logic       C. Facts
B. Expert opinion       D. Personal observation
**Writing Skills Activity**  
continued

✔ **Applying the Skill**

**Directions:** Read the following position statement, and use your textbook to find at least three points of evidence that support this statement. Write the evidence in the chart below and label each point by its type. Then write a brief persuasive paragraph incorporating your position statement and points of supporting evidence. (Note that all types of evidence do not need to be presented in your paragraph.)

**Position Statement:** Lack of national unity is Russia's greatest political challenge.

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<th>Evidence</th>
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**Assessment Checklist**

Assess your paragraph using the checklist below:

- Used a position statement in the paragraph
- Included at least three points of evidence in the paragraph
- Evidence clearly supports the position statement
- Wrote in complete and clear sentences
- Proofread spelling, grammar, and punctuation