



Evidence-Gathering Activity: Am I Done? Evidence Audit Checklist

Instructions: As a general rule of thumb, the right amount of evidence for an argument is “all of it”. How much should you have? All. Everything you can find.

Before you decide you are finished gathering evidence for your argument, use this checklist as a tool to think about what you have collected and what you might still need to find.

Name: _____ Claim: _____

- ☐ I have more than one type of evidence – not all quotes, not all stats, not all stories.
- ☐ Every idea I share has its own evidence – I'm not asserting something and hoping it slides by.
- ☐ My hardest, most contestable claims have more evidence behind them than my easy, obvious ones.
- ☐ If I covered up any single piece of evidence, the reader would actually lose something – nothing here is just repeating what's already covered.
- ☐ My counterargument has real evidence behind it, not just a description of what someone might think.
- ☐ I can name, in one sentence, the strongest evidence someone who disagrees with me would use.
- ☐ I know exactly where every piece of evidence came from – I could point to the source right now.
- ☐ Nothing on my list is still unverified, or an "I think I read this somewhere."
- ☐ Nothing is here just because I found it, or just to hit a number. Every piece of evidence is doing real work – cutting it would actually weaken the argument.
- ☐ Every piece connects to my actual claim, not just the general topic.
- ☐ My harshest critic couldn't dismiss this evidence in one sentence.
- ☐ I could defend every piece of evidence out loud, unscripted, right now.

