

## **Citing Evidence: Giving Credit Where Credit is Due!!!**

- Lots of times, we will write out someone's ideas or state someone's ideas and try to pass them off as our own when in fact, we had no part in the development of the idea. In this course, we will often have to read the ideas of others and formulate an opinion based on those readings. However, we most know that when we formulate, write or articulate our opinion and it is based on the ideas of others, we must give credit to those in which our idea was shaped.

### **Explicit Textual Evidence**

- When we have ideas about what we read, we need to cite **Explicit Textual Evidence** to support our ideas. When we read, we often are asked to answer questions or express our ideas about the text. In order to let people know we aren't making stuff up, we should use Explicit Textual Evidence to support our opinions or answers. In real life, people who can back up an opinion about a text with Explicit Textual Evidence are taken more seriously than people who can only give a reason of "just because."
- What does **Explicit Textual Evidence** mean? The name really says it all.

**Explicit = direct**

**Textual = from the text**

**Evidence = support for your answer, opinion, or idea**

- Giving **Explicit Textual Evidence** about your answers or opinions regarding a text is pretty simple. You just have to do three things:

1. **State your idea**: State the idea you had about the text (if you are responding to a specific question, be sure your idea restates the question).

2. **Cite what in the text led you to that idea**: Give supporting evidence from the text (by paraphrasing or directly quoting from the text). If you are directly quoting from a text, you must use quotation marks ("").

-**Sentence starters** (see the poster for sentence starters):

- *In the first paragraph, the author says...*
- *The text states...*
- *The text describes.....*
- *The author explains...*
- *Early in the text, the author/For instance, the author*

3. **Explain the Evidence**: Explain how the quote(s) or paraphrase(s) you pointed out support your idea.

**Sentence starters:**

- *This shows...*
- *This is because...*
- *This means...This reveals...*
- *This illustrates...*
- *This highlights the difference between...*

### **Ways to Give Credit**

- A **direct quotation** comes from the textual passage. But remember, if you use the exact words of the author, you need to use quotations marks and give the author credit (i.e. Harry Wong stated that "student achievement at the end of the year is directly related to the degree to which the teacher establishes good control of classroom procedures in the very first week of the school year.").

- A **paraphrase** means that you have translated the author's words and put them into your own words (I can agree with Harry Wong that I have to set the tone the first week of school in order to have a successful school year.).
- A **summary** means that you have developed your own brief statement from more lengthy or extensive evidence the author has presented (I can agree with Harry Wong that I have to set the tone the first week of school in order to have a successful school year. Other research by professionals in education, including my colleagues, agree that all rules and procedures for running a successful classroom must be set, practiced and in place during the first week of school.)