

Types of Evidence

Name _____

Date _____ Period ____

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and do the following:

- a. Underline the topic sentence.
- b. Circle transitional words or phrases.
- c. State the main idea of the paragraph in your own words using complete sentences.
- d. Identify the type(s) of evidence being used – *anecdote, facts, statistics, examples, expert opinion, or interview quotation.*

1. Teeth have three important jobs. First of all, they chew. They break food into small pieces and make it easier to swallow. Secondly, teeth are for talking. Front teeth help people say special sounds like the *th* in “toothbrush.” In addition, teeth help support the muscles around the mouth. In fact, teeth help to give a face its shape.

Main Idea Sentence: _____

Types of Evidence: _____

2. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a special talent for leadership. When he spoke, people listened. For example, poor people, rich people, white people, black people, and people from other countries—they all listened, and many helped him work, march, sing, and pray for justice. Moreover, he asked people not to fight with each other and suggested peaceful ways to solve problems. People from all walks of life listened to Mr. King’s words and followed his advice.

Main Idea Sentence: _____

Types of Evidence: _____

3. Advertisements for beer and wine should not be allowed on television because they encourage young people to start drinking. First, commercials never show what really happens when people drink. Second, they use unfair tactics, such as hiring celebrities who endorse the product and encouraging their fans to drink. Also, these commercials suggest that a lifestyle without drinking isn’t cool. Finally, the strongest reason to ban these ads is that recent research has shown a connection between increases in the number of alcohol ads geared to young people and an increase in teenage alcoholics.

Main Idea Sentence: _____

Types of Evidence: _____

4. College students who want to save money and live well should sell their cars and ride public transportation. Gasoline in my city is now \$3.49 a gallon, and news reports indicate that the cost of a gallon of gas could soon reach \$4.00 a gallon. In fact, the cost of gas had increased by 13.8 percent in 2011. In addition to the cost of gas, I have to cross two bridges each day and pay a total of \$10 in tolls every time I drive to the city, not to mention the astronomical cost of parking. Furthermore, my car insurance is \$890 per half-year, and it costs another \$89 a year to license my car. Just selling the car saved me over \$2,500 a year in fixed costs alone. Meanwhile, it only costs about \$8.00 to take BART to and from the university, and with no charge for parking either.

Main Idea Sentence: _____

Types of Evidence: _____

5. I like our school library, but their book lending policy is unfair. Its collection of books is just too small; as a result, students find it hard to get the books they need for their class work. Consequently, students should be allowed to check out books for only one week instead of the present two. This restriction would allow more students access to the small supply of books. It would also be more equitable than the present system, which allows some students to monopolize the books while others can do nothing but wait. Eventually, when the library has built up its collection, the two week loan period could be reinstated.

Main Idea Sentence: _____

Types of Evidence: _____

6. Wearing a helmet while riding bicycles should be mandatory for everyone. Police Officer Jane Johnson reports that she has investigated at least five serious accidents just this year in which the rider suffered severe head injuries. In one case, Officer Johnson says, "The rider was so seriously injured that he will be a paraplegic for the rest of his life." Last week, I witnessed a bicycle accident on the road that runs before Main Street. The rider skidded on a slick patch of pavement and hit her head against the curb. I found out later that she suffered a concussion that might have been prevented if she had been wearing a helmet.

Main Idea Sentence: _____

Types of Evidence: _____

7. Everyone who rides in a car should be required by law to wear a seat belt. One important reason seat belts should be required is because they prevent injuries in minor crashes by keeping the driver and passengers from bouncing around on impact. Studies have shown, for instance, that wearing a belt reduces the risk of death by about 45 percent for the driver and front-seat passengers in a sedan. Even more important, not wearing a seat belt in a car equipped with air bags can lead to serious injuries. Recent studies have shown that unless you are wearing a seat belt, the sudden expansion of an air bag can slam you up against the roof of the car. Most important of all, children without seat belts are particularly vulnerable because they are generally too small to brace themselves for any crash. Dr. Gonzalez, a pediatrician and an advisor for the Automobile Association of America, has done extensive research on the positive effect of seat belts for children. She said, "Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 3 – 14 in the United States. Child restraints and seat belts, when installed and used properly, can prevent injuries and save lives." Seat belts keep children, as well as adults, from being thrown against the windshield or out of the car in the most serious crashes.

Main Idea Sentence: _____

Types of Evidence: _____

8. Going camping is not my idea of a fun way to spend a vacation. First, it is not a pleasant experience to hike to a campsite with a heavy backpack on my shoulders, particularly in hot weather. Second, unpacking and repacking is a tedious chore. It is even more boring than cleaning my room. Furthermore, sleeping on the ground is incredibly uncomfortable, even when sleeping on an air mattress. However, the thing I hate most of all, are the annoying insects that arrive at mealtime and bedtime. Swatting away flies and mosquitoes while I'm trying to eat puts me in a bad mood.

Main Idea Sentence: _____

Types of Evidence: _____