### What does it mean?

- As readers, writers and thinkers, it is natural for students to develop ideas, ask questions, and make claims regarding what they are reading.
- Citing textual evidence requires students to look back into the text for evidence to support an idea, answer a question or make a claim.
- Citing evidence requires students to think more deeply about the text, analyze the author, source etc.
- Students also need to practice finding strong evidence to support their ideas.
  - Good evidence doesn’t require a lot of explanation to fit a claim.

### Why do we have to do it?

- Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
  - [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1](https://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/CCRA/R/1)
- It is an important skill especially in a society where it is increasingly more important for students to be critical of what they read.
- It encourages students to use higher level thinking skills.
- It is hard! Students struggle with it, and the sooner we start helping them with it the easier it will become.

### Tips

*Summarized from [The Great Books Foundation](https://www.greatbooks.org)*

**Click on link for more detailed explanations!**

1. **Model the importance of evidence**
   - *Use evidence when you share ideas and always encourage students to provide evidence.*
2. **Choose texts and questions that warrant close reading**
   - *Choose complex short texts that will encourage students to form ideas and opinions.*
3. **Explain what makes strong evidence**
   - *Remind students that good evidence fits the question and the answer.*
4. **Ask text dependent questions**
   - *Make sure the questions you ask require students to go back into the text.*
5. **Encourage collaboration**
   - *Have students work together and discuss.*
6. **Have students reflect on their own use of evidence**
   - *Have students self-assess: do they think they did a good job finding evidence?*
Strategy Ideas

1. **Conversational Roundtable**
   ○ Click on the link to access an article that explains the importance of collaborative conversations and how this strategy can be used.

2. **Discussion Web**
   ○ This web can be modified in many ways to encourage students to find evidence supporting both sides of a central question.

3. **It Says, I Say, And So**
   ○ This is a great strategy for teaching inferring and using evidence. Math example included.

4. **Vocabulary Study**
   ○ Require these components to encourage students to use evidence when determining meaning of vocabulary words—word, clue(evidence), explain, meaning

5. **Math Justifications and Grading Process**
   ○ This article explains how evidence can be used in justifying an answer in math and includes great rubrics for assessment.

Additional Resources

*Click on the book cover to explore each book on Amazon!*

Articles and Web Resources

- [Show Me the Proof: Requiring Evidence in Student Responses-Fisher and Frey](#)
- [Common Core Teaching and Learning Strategies from ISBE](#)
- [Tips for Citing Evidence in Writing and Close Reading from UVM](#)
- [Checklist for Students to Evaluate their Use of Evidence from ReadWriteThink](#)
- [Developing Evidence Based Arguments Lesson Idea from ReadWriteThink](#)