



Claim, Evidence and Analysis

Historians conduct research and search for credible and reliable sources to help reconstruct the past. They start off with a question (example: Why did this event happen?) and when they find enough credible and reliable evidence they develop a claim (example: This event happened because of ____.) Then they explain how that evidence defends and supports their claim. This last step is called historical analysis.

What is Historical analysis? Historical analysis summarizes the evidence, but more importantly it connects the evidence to your Thesis statement (Claim). How does that evidence suitable and appropriate to defend your thesis (Claim)?

Example

Topic: Teens and social Media

Research Question: What are the effects of teenagers using social media?

Thesis: Teenagers who use social media tend to withdraw and isolate themselves from physical interaction with their peers.

Evidence: “More than half of teens have made at least one new friend online. Fully 57% of teenagers have met a new friend over the internet, with nearly three-in-ten teens (29%) saying they have made more than five friends this way. But most of these relationships remain online, with a majority (77%) of all teenagers saying they have never met an online friend in person” ([Pew Research Center, 2015](#)).

Analysis part 1, Summary of Evidence: According to Pew Research, it shows that teenagers have made many “friends” online but in most instances they have never actually met their “friends” in person.

Analysis part 2, Connect to Thesis: It appears that teenagers are being more sociable, by connecting with new people, but they do not physically interact with their online friends in person. Therefore, some teenagers may be isolated and lonely even though they have many “friends” on social media.

First identify what topics you want to explore

After you conduct research what are your main findings?
(Answer your research question)

Find credible evidence that “proves” your thesis.

How does that evidence help “prove” your thesis? Can explain what it means in your own words and show why that piece of information is important?



Optional Activity

Student Task (Optional): Check your social media accounts.

- How many people do you know REALLY well (Family and friends who you have known over 2 years)

- How many people are “acquaintances,” people who know, but don’t see or hang out with on a regular basis? _____
- How many people you have never met in person, but you feel like you know a lot about them based on the photos and information they share? _____
- How many people you “follow” are celebrities or people you will probably never meet?

E. Total of all “friends”: _____

Add up B & C & D= _____ and divide by total (E) number of “friends”:

Multiply that number by 100= _____ is the percentage of the friends that are not truly “friends” (in the physical sense).

Question: Is your personal experience similar or different to the evidence presented above (from Pew Research)? “...But most of these relationships remain online, with a majority (77%) of all teenagers saying they have never met an online friend in person.”



Student Activity

Directions: You will consider different evidence, develop a thesis sentence and analyze the information about social media and teens.

Topic: Teens and social Media

Research Question: What are the effects of teenagers using social media?

Evidence <i>(Highlight 1-3 sentences that are the most convincing pieces of evidence to answer the research question)</i>	Does this article cite positive or negative effects of social media use?
1) "Half of all teens reported feeling addicted to their mobile devices, and 28 percent said their parents are addicted too, according to a nationally representative survey of 1,200 parents and children conducted by the non-profit media advocacy organization Common Sense Media. From the parents' perspective, 59 percent of them feel that their teens are addicted to their mobile devices, and 27 percent feel that they themselves are addicted, too." Source: Common Sense Media in The Huffington Post, 2016.	
2) "Their enhanced contact with peers is remarkable, and contrary to fears, teens connect online mostly with people who are already in their offline life and report that their online interactions do not affect the extent of their face-to-face ones." Excerpt From: Kaveri Subrahmanyam and David Šmahel. "Digital Youth." Springer Science in Business Media, 2011.	
3) "Just as adult women are often subject to more frequent and intense harassment online, teen girls are substantially more likely than boys to experience uncomfortable flirting within social media environments. Fully 35% of all teen girls have had to block or unfriend someone who was flirting in a way that made them uncomfortable, double the 16% of boys who have taken this step." Source: Pew Research Center, "Teens, Technology and Romantic Relationships", 2015.	
4) "A complicated picture of the effects of technology on family relationships is emerging. Teens report that the Internet has not changed the amount of interactions with their family and tools such as cell phones and social networking sites may even allow them to keep in touch with relatives and family members, with whom they otherwise would not interact. At the same, they may accelerate teens' individuation and autonomy from their family and may even be a source of conflict within the home. When teens, as the digital natives, are more knowledgeable about technology than their digital immigrant parents are, we may see a reversal of traditional roles that may disrupt family relationships." Excerpt From: Kaveri Subrahmanyam and David Šmahel. "Digital Youth." Springer Science in Business Media, 2011.	



Student Task: Develop a Claim, Use Evidence and Analyze Quote

Topic: Teens and social Media

Research Question: What are the effects of teenagers using social media?

Thesis/ Claim: (Example for evidence 1) Social networking among teenagers leads to social media addiction.

Your Claim or thesis: _____

According to _____, “(Insert part of a quote here that proves your thesis statement) _____”

This indicates that (summarize what it means in your own words) _____

(Now connect it your your research question/thesis) *Therefore, this shows* _____



Student Task: Develop a Claim, Use Evidence and Analyze Quote
Modified

Topic: Teens and social Media

Research Question: What are the effects of teenagers using social media?

Thesis/ Claim:

Evidence: <i>According to source, it states, "_____."</i>	Summary of evidence: <i>This evidence indicates...</i>
Analysis: <i>This evidence supports the claim because</i>	

Analysis help: Connect the evidence to your thesis and research questions. How does the evidence “prove” that your thesis/claim is accurate?



