Elaboration of Evidence

How to Use the Information You’ve Collected
Elaboration of Evidence

• According to the district rubric, elaboration of evidence means “the topic is developed and supported with evidence (i.e. relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations or other information and examples).”

• Advanced use of elaboration of evidence means:
  • Provides comprehensive support/evidence for the main idea
  • Presents well-chosen evidence (sources, facts and details)
  • Skillfully integrates evidence with correct citations
  • Analyzes and draws strong conclusions from evidence
How to Elaborate

• Don’t string together facts and assume your paper is done.
• You have to be a part of your paper, which means you have to understand and use your information appropriately.
• Look at these facts about rules teachers had to follow in the 1800s:
  • You may not under any circumstances dye your hair.
  • You may not dress in bright colors.
  • Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankles.

Poor Elaboration

• You may not under any circumstances dye your hair.
• You may not dress in bright colors.
• Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankles.


Teachers were not allowed to dye their hair, wear bright colors or wear dresses that were “shorter than two inches above the ankles” (*About*).
Strong Elaboration

- You may not under any circumstances dye your hair.
- You may not dress in bright colors.
- Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankles.


Teachers in the 1800s had very strict rules to follow. Some of these rules were meant to make sure that teachers were appropriately modest, enabling them to remain good role models for their students. Bans on hair dye and brightly colored clothes ensured that they were the kind of people who were not concerned with worldly things. One can also assume that the guideline of skirt length was meant to make the teacher a professional and positive influence in the lives of her students (*About*).
Tips for Strong Elaboration

• Organize your facts into topics.
• Organize your topics into subtopics.
• Look for things that those subtopics have in common and talk about them. Explain them. Make sure your reader knows what you’re writing about.
Strong Elaboration

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