



Graduate Online Writing Studio

Evidence of Learning

When bringing information from outside source, it is important that the information is valuable to you as a writer and to your paper and that it is valuable to your reader. Your job as a writer is to deepen and broaden your body of knowledge and to show your audience (and your instructor) that you have learned something from the research that supports your paper's main idea.

The non-example below cites common knowledge from an outside source that is relatively mundane to readers because they likely already know it. While this example uses APA correctly and provides some information to the reader, the information is all relatively general and does not really add anything to your or your readers' knowledge base.

Common Knowledge (Non-Example)

Nowadays, many new businesses are opening every day. In fact, businesses are growing in size and using lots of new technology. Going into business can be very risky. You can earn a lot of money or go bankrupt. Some employees will excel while others will let employers down. Business leaders make tough decisions to advance the interests of the company (Clark, 2010).

The evidence of learning example below shows how research can be incorporated to strengthen and support your ideas and demonstrate what new and relevant information you as the writer have learned from your research. You want to demonstrate to your instructor through your writing that you are engaged in the learning process and have been able to use scholarly information in an effective and informative way to support the points you are making in the paper.

Evidence of Learning (Example)

Research indicates that employees are not sufficiently prepared for the workforce (Harrison, 2015; Jackson, 2015; Perez, 2016). In a study of 1,804 employees at four different Fortune 500 companies over the span of 10 years, Johnson and Rose (2016) found that 74% of employees stated they did not receive sufficient training to perform their job at or above their employers' expectations. The researchers also found that 65% of employees in their study indicated they believe their lack of preparation significantly reduced their company's earnings (Johnson & Rose, 2016). The consistent findings of multiple studies provide compelling evidence that employers should take steps to ensure employees receive proper training prior to or during employment.