

# Concrete Details and Commentary

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EDUC 443

# California Common Core State Standards

## English Language Arts

- **RI.9-10.1** Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
  - **W.9-10.1A** Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
  - **W.9-10.1B** Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly, supplying evidence for each while point out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level and concerns.
  - **W.9-10.2B** Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
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# Objectives

**Content Objectives:** By the end of the lesson, students will

1. Pick concrete details from self-selected informational texts.
2. Write commentary to analyze concrete details.
3. Use concrete details and commentary to support a thesis statement.

**Language Objective:** By the end of the lesson, students will be able to define the difference between concrete details and commentary in essay writing.

# Think-Pair-Share:

Why do students need to use other print and internet sources when writing an essay?





Credibility



Research

# What is a concrete detail?

## Essay Vocabulary

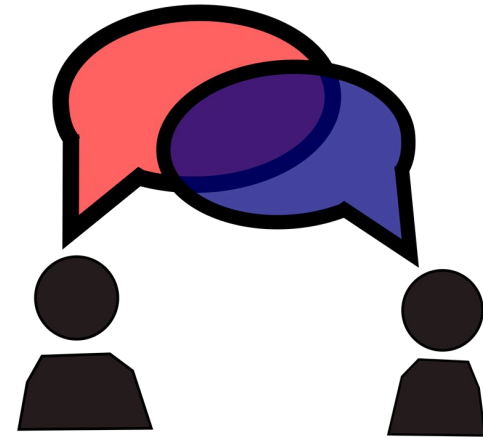
**Definition:** A fact, quote, or statistic that is found in a print or internet source and incorporated into an essay



# Facts/ Examples



# Statistics



# Quotes

# Where do I find concrete details?

In your sources!



Print  
Sources



Internet  
Sources



# Examples

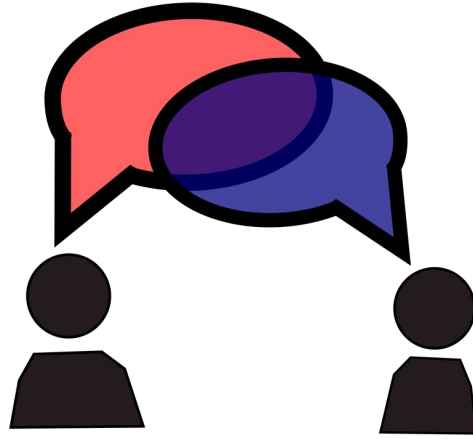
# Fact/Evidence



**Article:** <https://online.champlain.edu/blog/top-qualities-of-a-great-leader>

**Concrete Detail:** Champlain University highlights interpersonal communication as an important leadership skill in the article entitled “The Top 10 Qualities of a Great Leader”.

# Quotes



**Article:** <https://online.champlain.edu/blog/top-qualities-of-a-great-leader>

**Concrete Detail:** “Luckily, unlike some highly specialized or technical skills, leadership is a competency that can be accessible to anyone, regardless of where they fall on an organizational chart...” (Krakoff, “The Top 10 Qualities of a Great Leader”).

# Statistics



**Article:** <https://www.imd.org/imd-reflections/leadership-reflections/situational-leadership/>

**Concrete Detail:** The American Psychological Association said that workplace stress causes a loss of more than \$500 billion in the U.S. economy

**Make sure to always cite ideas that  
are not your own.**

# What is commentary?

## Essay Vocabulary

**Definition:** “Writing commentary means giving your opinion, interpretation, insight, analysis, explication, personal reaction, evaluation or reflection about a concrete detail in an essay.”

- Humble Independent School District

**So what?**



**Why does this  
matter?**

# Where do I find commentary?

In your mind!



- Explaining
- Analyzing
- Connecting
- Interpreting



# Fact/Evidence – With Commentary

**Concrete Detail:** Champlain University highlights interpersonal communication as an important leadership skill in the article entitled “The Top 10 Qualities of a Great Leader”.

**Commentary:** Interpersonal communication is a vital skill for effective leaders because leaders spend most of their day meeting with people inside and outside of the company. A leader must use interpersonal communication to build rapport with others to motivate employees and to win the trust of influential figures in their industry.

# Quote – With Commentary

**Concrete Detail:** “Luckily, unlike some highly specialized or technical skills, leadership is a competency that can be accessible to anyone, regardless of where they fall on an organizational chart...” (Krakoff, “The Top 10 Qualities of a Great Leader”).

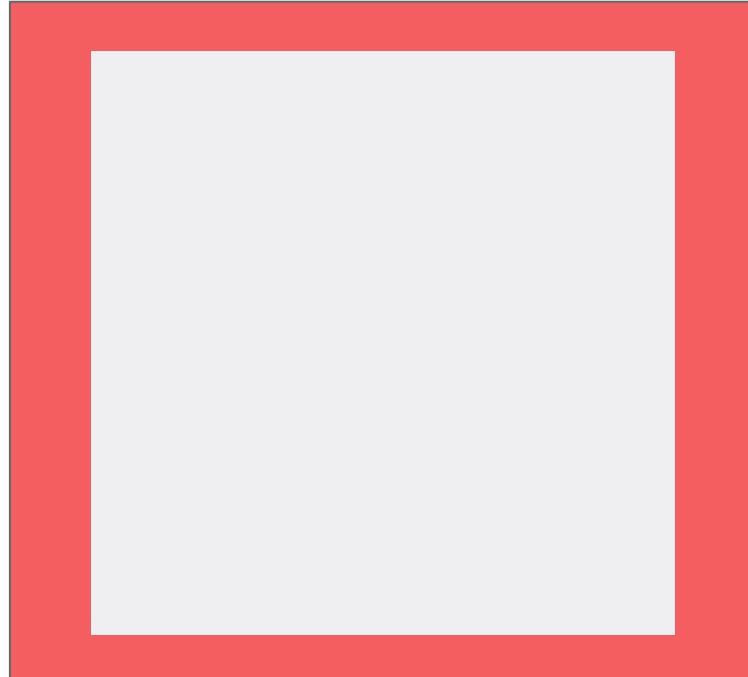
**Commentary:** This quote shows that aspiring leaders can cultivate their skills at any point in their career. This is an admirable trait in effective leaders because lifelong learning prevents leaders from stagnating in their craft.

# Statistic - With Commentary

**Concrete Detail:** The American Psychological Association said that workplace stress causes a loss of more than \$500 billion in the U.S. economy

**Commentary:** This statistic shows that organizational investment in work/life balance not only improves the satisfaction of employees but it also reaps financial gains for the company. Effective leaders should care about the wellbeing of their employees to maximize economic growth and workplace performance.

**Commentary should tie concrete details back to your thesis statement.**

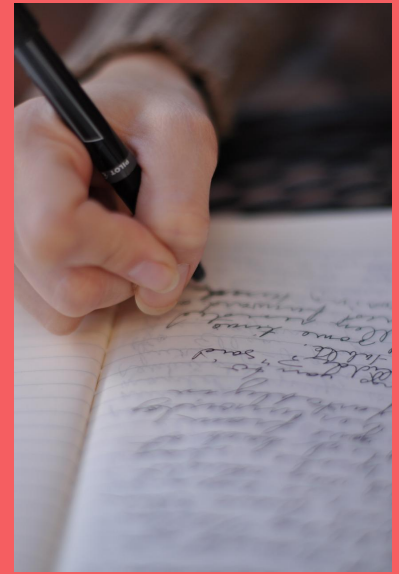




+



=



Concrete Detail  
From  
Print/Internet  
Sources

+

Commentary  
From  
Your Mind

=

Body  
Paragraph  
(most of it)

# Drag and Drop Activity

[Click here to start](#)

The United States Postal Service not only serves to deliver mail, get money orders, and sell up F.O. boxes, but also to remain a symbol of our country's development and progress.

Development is ending into the jagged a habitat and it is the actors of formats that are undergoing them.

While new technology and trends come and go, a personal touch and sentimental value gives the USPS value more profound than speed or size.

Always it is shown that 22% of library computer users only access the computers at the library.

Carlton makes this statement as if he were accusing his rude behavior to Darnay. Carlton, however, is only pretending to be polite, perhaps to amuse himself. With this seemingly off-the-cuff remark, Carlton reveals a deeper cynicism and his emotional isolation.

It seems to remind the US population of where our country has been and can give citizens a feeling of pride that can be matched by few other countries.

Drag and drop the sentences into the right category

Concrete Details	Commentary

The disease-fighting and health-promoting components of soy milk have the potential to change people's health and to improve their lives by affecting both cholesterol and weight. This makes soy milk an important factor in heart health, so people should consider switching to soy milk.

Cullen argues, "Email is fast and simple, but to me an old-fashioned, trencherman letter has value in this speed-obsessed world."

When Carlton and Darnay first meet at the prison, Carlton tells him, "I care for no man on this earth, and no man cares for me" (Dickens 105).

This shows that reliance on librarians is actually going up, not down, contradictory to those who say the function of librarians is diminishing.

"John Stow was the first to print this place in the US with Ben Franklin's first library in the 1750s."

# It's your turn to write concrete details and commentary

## Click here to start

Name:  
Class Period:  
Date:

Concrete Details and Commentary - Graphic Organizer

Driving Question: "What are the character traits of an effective leader?"

Part 1: List your three character traits that you are researching for this essay.

Character Trait #1	Character Trait #2	Character Trait #3
Example: Sense of Humor		

Part 2: Write your thesis statement

**Thesis statement:** Selflessness, integrity, and sense of humor are important character traits for a leader to effectively and authentically lead their team.

Part 3: Read your sources from yesterday's lesson and pick out two pieces of concrete detail for each character trait. For each concrete detail, write commentary that connects the concrete detail back to your thesis statement.

**Let me show you how I would do it**

**(This would be live in front of the class  
but here is a video to give you an idea)**



# Review Vocabulary

**What is a concrete detail?**

**Definition:** A fact, quote, or statistic that is found in a print or internet source and incorporated into an essay

# Review Vocabulary

## What is commentary?

**Definition:** “Writing commentary means giving your opinion, interpretation, insight, analysis, explication, personal reaction, evaluation or reflection about a concrete detail in an essay.”

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# To Do List

1. Complete Graphic Organizer.
2. Submit your Graphic Organizer to Google Classroom.

## Next Time

We will use everything you have worked on so far to write the rough draft of your essay.

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