



Academic Writing Podcast 16 – Evidence

Sample Text

A **body of evidence** supports the importance of seed banks, a method of preserving genetic diversity in plant species. In seed banks, scientists gather thousands of plant and seed samples from all over the world. The seed banks' focus on rare or historic plant species **stems from the fact that** commercially grown food crops only represent a fraction of the many varieties of plants. For example, there is **abundant evidence** that 90% of the types of wheat grown in China within the last 100 years are now extinct. **Data** from numerous studies show that reliance on just a few species of all crops is highly problematic, as plant diseases can easily spread and endanger the world's food supply. The world's first seed bank was established in 1926 by Russian botanist Nikolai Vavilov, who drew **attention to the fact that** a massive collection of plants could play a role in ending world hunger. **To support this hypothesis**, the plants collected in seed banks have numerous unique attributes, including resistance to disease, drought, parasites, and extreme hot and cold temperatures. These plants may also have medicinal properties that can yield new cures and treatments. Scientists around the world have **established the fact that** the plants in seed banks may provide the key to feeding the world's population¹.

Glossary

1) to support the hypothesis

- Detectives, such as Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot, are such experts: they collect evidence from a crime scene and then draw logical conclusions from the evidence **to support the hypothesis that**, for example, Person M. committed the crime.
- What evidence exists **to support the hypothesis of** universal grammar?

¹ Sample text based on <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/07/food-ark/siebert-text>.



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2) body of evidence

- A growing **body of evidence** shows that exposure to Deca may cause adverse health effects, including damage to the nervous system and impaired motor skills.

3) facts

to establish the facts

to discover or prove the facts of a situation

- Trial can thus be viewed as the failure of the parties to stipulate the facts; that is, the counsels have been unable **to establish the facts** by reciprocal representation and must establish them through trial.

to distort the facts

to twist or change facts, ideas, etc. so that they are no longer correct or true

- Newspapers are often guilty of **distorting the truth**.
- Biased data often **distort facts**.
- Its perspective, by being one-sided, must necessarily **distort the facts**.

4) undeniable facts

- Some closer inspection is needed in order to disentangle the **undeniable facts** from the somehow dubious conclusions.
- The **undeniable facts** that he presented really added credibility to his work.

5) to stem from (phrasal verb)

to be the result of something

- Most people's insecurities **stem from** something that happened in their childhood.
- These results **stem from** the fact that water almost always flows downstream.
- Organizational rent is shown to **stem from** imperfect and discretionary decisions to develop and deploy selected resources and capabilities, made by boundedly rational managers facing high uncertainty, complexity, and intrafirm conflict.

6) to pay attention to the fact that

- It is more appropriate **to pay attention to the fact that** bonuses are responsive to labor market conditions in Japan.

7) evidence (n); evident (adj)

- We are looking for **evidence to support** our hypothesis.
- The lawyer searched the police archives **to collect evidence**.
- In this paper, we **consider the evidence** found in a large body of literature.
- Civil cases require a **preponderance of evidence** to assign guilt.
- We rejected the hypothesis because the **evidence presented** was at best flimsy.
- The **evidence** he gathered conflicted with the evidence that we gathered.
- Our paper provides **strong evidence** suggesting that the hypothesis is valid.²

²Voices: Voices: Imanni Wilkes Burg and Zhenya Bakin