

REMinDERS For EXPLaiNing EVIDENCE

Part 1: Explains the SIGNIFICANCE of the evidence

- This should be the longest part of your explanation, and it would be hard to really explain the importance of your evidence in less than two sentences. **Take your time when writing it. It should really show thinking!**

- Beware of circular reasoning (i.e. *This shows that cursive is good for the brain because it is talking about how cursive is good for the brain.*)

- Consider some of the questions below to help you with this part:

- So what? Why should anyone care about this evidence?
- What does this information imply?
- I've just described what something is like or how I see it, but why is it like that?
- Why is this information important to understanding why I made my claim?
- How is this idea related to my claim? What connections exist between them?
- Can I give an example to illustrate the application of this evidence?
- What are the consequences of thinking this way or looking at a problem this way? (for evidence of a counterclaim)

Part 2: Relates back to the QUESTION/CLAIM

- Generally begins with a transition word/phrase (Therefore, This shows, Consequently, As a result, etc.)

- Restates claim and reason in question

- Example: *Therefore, cursive should be taught in schools because it helps students read primary sources.*