

Writing Like an ACE: A Guide To Academic Writing

ASSERTION

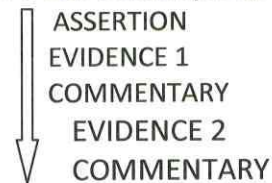
An ASSERTION is an informed statement. It is a single view point that you can reasonably defend. When you move from the pre-writing stage to the drafting stage, you will turn each assertion into a topic sentence, so think about an ASSERTION as the one issue you want to discuss in a given paragraph.

EVIDENCE

1. EVIDENCE comprises of the information and sources that inform your assertion.
2. In this column you write down quotes, paraphrases, and references that make your view point defensible. The EVIDENCE column includes all the statements and ideas that are not your own.
3. Each number in this column represents a citation that you will make in your paper. Thus, consult your style manual and write your citation just as you would in your paper. This will also help you to avoid plagiarism and to maintain academic honesty.

COMMENTARY

1. COMMENTARY is how you fill in the gaps between your ASSERTION and the cited EVIDENCE. Think of COMMENTARY as filling showing how the EVIDENCE defends your ASSERTION.
2. Notice how points in the EVIDENCE and COMMENTARY columns correspond by number. Make sure that you order the evidence and associated commentary in such a manner that you can move your finger from ASSERTION to EVIDENCE #1 to COMMENTARY #1 to EVIDENCE #2 ... so that your finger winds downward.
3. By doing this, you will be emulating the logic necessary for a well-crafted paragraph.



Transition: Use this space to think about how to help your reader move from the defended ASSERTION to your next ASSERTION. When you move from pre-writing to drafting, this TRANSITION sentence will usually nod back to the ASSERTION and come at the end of the paragraph. In some cases, you can put your transition in the first sentence of the subsequent paragraph.

ASSERTION

EVIDENCE

1.

2.

3.

COMMENTARY

1.

2.

3.

Transition: