

# Identify Evidence

READING ASSESSMENT TARGETS: R.2.2, R.2.5, R.3.5, R.5.1, R.5.4, R.6.1, R.8.1, R.8.2

## 1 Learn the Skill

In persuasive writing, claims are supported by **evidence**—reasons and information that show why readers should believe or agree with the claim. Claims are authors' **opinions** or viewpoints. Evidence is made up of **facts**, information that can be proved true or untrue, and credible or convincing opinions. Authors use different types of evidence, depending on their purpose and audience. Authors also may use appeals to **logic**, appeals to **emotion**, and appeals to **ethics**.

## 2 Practice the Skill

By practicing the skill of identifying evidence, you will improve your study and test-taking abilities, especially as they relate to the GED® Reasoning Through Language Arts Test. Study the table below. Then answer the question that follows.

- Consider how the different types of evidence support this claim:  
People must take steps to protect the habitats and migration routes of monarch butterflies.

Type of Appeal	Evidence	Example
<b>Logic</b>	facts, data, personal experiences, expert opinions	A study found that the number of monarch butterflies spending the winter in Mexico dropped by a third in a year.
<b>Emotion</b>	anecdotes, visuals, warnings, strong language that stirs feelings	On their migrations, delicate monarch butterflies face many natural challenges. But now they face an even greater danger—destruction of their habitats by humans.
<b>Ethics</b>	author's credibility, source's credibility	The Smithsonian National Zoological Park recommends learning about monarchs so that we can pursue conservation efforts.

**a** **Anecdotes** are very short stories. Anecdotes often appear as introductions to persuasive texts or as examples that support or refute claims.

**b** **Credibility** refers to the reliability or trustworthiness of sources or authors. The appeal relies on knowledge, training, or experience in the subject.

### USING LOGIC

Appeals to emotion can be an important part of persuasion. However, if an author uses only emotional appeals and no facts to support a claim, think carefully about whether the claim is valid or well supported.

- Why might a fundraising letter from a conservation group include photographs of trees cut down in a butterfly habitat?
  - to prove that numbers of butterflies are decreasing
  - to show that the group is a credible source of information
  - to make readers fearful about the threat to butterflies
  - to counter claims that butterfly populations are growing



**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage, read each question, and choose the **best** answer.

*In 1946, J. A. Krug, Secretary of the Interior, wrote a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives asking him to support legislation that would make it easier for Japanese Americans to receive payment for losses they suffered as a result of movement, or "evacuation," to camps during World War II. Part of this letter is paraphrased below.*

## COMPENSATING JAPANESE AMERICAN EVACUEES

1 In 1942, the War Department ordered that all Japanese Americans be removed from the Pacific Coast of the United States. For approximately two and a half years, more than 100,000 of these American citizens and their alien parents could not return to their homes. In January of 1945, they were allowed to return to their homes to try to resume their lives. It is too early to establish the total financial and property losses the Japanese Americans experienced, but the losses are undoubtedly heavy. Some lost everything they had. Many lost most of what they had.

2 None of these Japanese American evacuees was charged with any crime. Experience has shown that most of them were and are good Americans. The 23,000 Japanese Americans who served in the armed forces in both Europe and the Pacific have an outstanding record. The intelligence agencies have uncovered no instances of sabotage or espionage by Americans of Japanese ancestry during the war.

3 The evacuation orders left people with very little time to get their affairs in order. Merchants had to sell their stocks and businesses at sacrifice prices. Many evacuees sold personal possessions for a fraction of their value. A large number of people had to accept inadequate arrangements for the protection of their property. Some property was abandoned.

4 These losses are the direct result of the evacuation. Now, for the first time in the history of our nation, Japanese Americans are asking for public assistance in substantial numbers. The least that this country can do, in simple justice, is offer some degree of compensation for the incredible losses the evacuees have suffered.

2. Which fact supports the author's claim that Japanese Americans were evacuated without cause?

- A. More than 100,000 Japanese Americans were not allowed to return to their homes.
- B. The intelligence agencies uncovered no espionage by Japanese Americans.
- C. Merchants had to sell their stocks and businesses at sacrifice prices.
- D. Japanese Americans are asking for public assistance in substantial numbers.

3. In paragraph 2, why does the author discuss the service record of Japanese Americans during the war?

- A. to suggest that evacuees made greater sacrifices than other Americans
- B. to express appreciation for what members of the Armed Forces had done
- C. to explain why so few men were among the evacuees
- D. to show that Japanese Americans were patriotic and brave

4. Which statement **best** summarizes the evidence presented in paragraph 3?

- A. The haste of the evacuation resulted in financial losses for Japanese Americans.
- B. More planning could have helped the evacuation run more smoothly.
- C. Japanese Americans had to leave their property with people they did not trust.
- D. Japanese Americans had trouble determining the value of their possessions.

5. Which statement **best** explains the way in which the author uses evidence in this passage?

- A. He relies on his position as Secretary of the Interior to persuade readers.
- B. He states a claim and uses statistics and personal stories to show that it is valid.
- C. He builds to a claim by presenting facts as logical evidence.
- D. He uses emotional language to make readers feel sympathy for Japanese Americans.