

Sheet 12: Identifying Stance and Evidence

Worked example:

Read this: 'Local parks are vital for our community health. Last year, 500 residents used the Oak Street park daily.' What is the stance?

Answer: Stance: The writer believes parks are important for community health. Evidence: 500 residents used the park daily.

- Read this editorial snippet: 'Our town should install more bicycle racks. Cycling reduces traffic congestion, and recent data shows that car travel in the town center has increased by 15% this year.'

Stance: The town needs more bike racks. Evidence: Car travel increased by 15%.

- Using the snippet above, what is the writer's main argument (stance)?
- What specific piece of evidence does the writer use to support their argument?
- Pip the caterpillar says: 'Reading in the garden is the best way to learn. Scientific studies show that being outdoors improves focus.' Identify the stance.
- What is the evidence Pip uses to support his stance?

Self-check: Check your answers: Does your identified stance clearly state an opinion, and is your evidence a fact that supports that opinion?

Ready for next: Once you can confidently pick out the author's point of view and their supporting evidence, you are ready to learn how writers create tension in stories.