

## **SAMPLE EVIDENCE EXTRACT:** ***Doctor Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe**

Always phrase your opinion as a statement – no questions allowed as theses or topic sentences. For the minimum support for any topic, you must locate at least three pieces of supporting evidence. First, copy your statement at the top of a separate page. Next, cite your evidence, being as specific as possible. Always include an exact location for your evidence – page numbers; paragraph numbers; stanza and line; act, scene, line; etc.. There are only **TWO** acceptable kinds of evidence -- **SPECIFIC DETAILS / EVENTS** and **QUOTATION**. Each piece of evidence requires an explanation of how it supports your statement.

Note these **SPECIFIC DETAILS AND EVENTS** cited as evidence to prove –

### ***Faustus is foolish.***

1. Faustus trades his soul for 24 years (foolish to trade immortality for 24 years)
2. Ignores warnings of Mephistophilis (should listen to devil who knows)
3. Ignores advice of Good Angel (tells him again and again that he can still repent)
4. Ignores warning of his own blood (refuses to flow to keep him from signing contract)
5. Ignores weakness of Devil (Mephistophilis can't or won't give him what he asks for)  
    no wife (only sluts since marriage is sacrament)  
    no answers to questions (tells only what Faustus could have learned in study)
6. Ignores example of subplot (Wagner, but Robin and Ralph turned into dog & ape, less than man not gods)
7. Ignores example of Old Man (even though body is tormented, soul is saved by faith)
8. Uses power foolishly (teases Pope, conjures visions of Alexander, tries to impress Emperor, puts horns on knight)
9. Even at end asks for time to repent (but does not use time he has TO repent)
10. **Your Detail or Event:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Note these examples of how **QUOTATIONS** can be cited as evidence –

1. “The reward of sin is death” (rest of quote contradicts itself and shows that he could have saved himself at any time by truly repenting since “the gift of God is eternal life.” [*Doctor Faustus* I, i] {page 3} and [Romans 6:23])
2. “When Mephistopheles shall stand by me./ What God can hurt thee, Faustus?” because... [II, i] {page 16}
3. “Damned art thou, Faustus, damned; despair and die!” but Faustus ignores the Old Man who sees... [V, i] {page 45}
4. “Sweet Helen, make me immortal with a kiss” but actually... [V, i] {page 47}
5. “But Faustus’s offence can ne’er be pardoned: the serpent that tempted Eve may be saved, but not Faustus” shows his foolishness in that... [v, ii] {page 48}
6. **Your Quotation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_