

# Giving Evidence

**Providing evidence  
in your writing.**



# Giving Evidence

But what is the evidence?



The evidence you need to use is anything from the text. If you make a point then you need to refer back to the text to show where you are getting your ideas from and you're not just making them up.

Look at the text from Act 3, Scene 1. How do we know that Macbeth has met the murderers before and has therefore planned the murder?



# Giving Evidence

**MACBETH:**

**1st MURDERER:**

**MACBETH:**

Was it not yesterday we spoke together?

It was, so please your Highness.

Well then, now

Have you considered of my speeches? Know

That it was he in the times past which held you

So under fortune, which you thought had been

Our innocent self? This I made good to you

In our last conference, passed in probation with

you:

How you were borne in hand, how crossed, the  
instruments,

Who wrought with them, and all things else that might

To half a soul and to a notion crazed

Say, "Thus did Banquo."

**You have thirty seconds**

**Finding the evidence is one thing but how do we write it?**



# Giving Evidence

## Paraphrasing

This means taking the words from the text and putting them in your own words. You do need to make sure that you keep the meaning the same.

Was it not yesterday we spoke together?



Macbeth greets the murderers at the door and checks when they last spoke.



# Giving Evidence

Your turn ...

Have you considered of my speeches?



Macbeth asks the two murderers if they have been thinking about what he told them the previous day.

**Remember that the greater amount of information you include, the more you are showing that you understand the text.**



# Giving Evidence

## Quoting

This means taking the exact words that are used in the text. You must always use quotation marks (single speech marks). You must make sure that the sentence still makes sense.

Macbeth gives the murderers reasons for wanting to kill Banquo; he tells them that it was Banquo who 'in times past' had held them 'so under fortune' and tries to make the murderers blame Banquo for their past lack of success.

The quotations are only short but make your point and link what you say back to the text. You do not have to include whole lines but choose selected phrases.



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## Your turn ...

Look at Act 3, Scene 1, lines 86-91. Write a sentence or two which shows how Macbeth persuades the men that they should act against Banquo.

'Do you find  
Your patience so predominant in your nature,  
That you can let this go? Are you so gospelled,  
To pray for this good man and for his issue,  
Whose heavy hand hath bowed you to the grave  
And beggared yours forever?'

Macbeth uses rhetorical questions to make them think. He asks them if they have such 'patience' and are so 'gospelled' and holy that they can 'pray for this good man and his issue', Fleance, when he has made them poor.



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## Long Quotations

Sometimes your quotation will not fit into the sentence. This is usually true if you want to use a longer quotation.

If this is the case, you will put the quotation on a new line. Do try to avoid this as you don't very often need to include the whole quotation.

In Act 3, Scene 1, Macbeth questions what sort of men the murderers are:

'Ay, in the catalogue ye go for men,  
As hounds and greyhounds, mongrels, spaniels, curs,  
Shoughs, waterrugs, and demi-wolves are clept  
All by the name of dogs'

He argues that different types of dogs are all referred to as 'dogs' and makes it clear that, in the same way, there are different types of men. He wants to know if they are 'men' enough to carry out his 'business'.





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## Putting it all together

You've now looked at the whole of the first scene and talked about how Macbeth persuades the murderers to kill Banquo and Fleance.



Using quotations from the text to provide your evidence and using the same PEE structure, write a detailed paragraph in which you explain how and why Macbeth gets the murders to kill Banquo and Fleance.

