

Data Evaluation Checklist

Score each potential example (1-5) before using it in your essay. Choose examples with the highest total scores for the strongest evidence.

Relevance & Support (20 points)

- **Directly proves the thesis or topic sentence:** Does it clearly connect to and support your main argument? (1-5)
- **Fits the assignment/prompt:** Does it address the specific question or task? (1-5)
- **Illustrates the specific point:** Is it a clear and unambiguous demonstration of the claim you're making? (1-5)
- **Avoids tangents:** Does it stay tightly focused on the point, without unnecessary detail? (1-5)

Quality & Credibility (20 points)

- **Accuracy:** Are the facts, details, and data correct and verifiable? (1-5)
- **Source Credibility (if applicable):** Is it from a reliable, authoritative, and unbiased source? (1-5)
- **Appropriateness:** Is the tone and content suitable for the academic audience and purpose? (1-5)
- **Timeliness:** Is the information current, or is its historical context valid for the argument? (1-5)

Effectiveness & Impact (20 points)

- **Clarity:** Is the example easy to understand and explain? (1-5)
- **Specificity:** Is it concrete and detailed, not vague or generic? (1-5)
- **Memorability:** Is it striking, vivid, or unique enough to be remembered? (1-5)
- **Persuasive Power:** How convincing is it likely to be for a skeptical reader? (1-5)

Practicality & Integration (15 points)

- **Conciseness:** Can it be explained without taking over the essay? (1-5)
- **Ease of Explanation:** Can you describe and analyze it clearly in your own words? (1-5)
- **Contribution to Variety:** Does it offer a different *type* of evidence (e.g., statistic, case study, historical event, personal anecdote) than your other examples? (1-5)

TOTAL SCORE ____ / 75

Interpretation & Decision Guide

- **60-75 Points (Excellent):** A strong, credible, and effective example. **USE THIS.**
 - **45-59 Points (Good):** A solid example that supports your point. May need minor refinement in explanation or analysis. **LIKELY USE.**
 - **30-44 Points (Fair):** Has potential but significant weaknesses (e.g., vague, slightly off-topic, weak source). Consider revising or finding a stronger alternative. **REVISE OR REPLACE.**
 - **Below 30 Points (Poor):** Unlikely to effectively support your argument. Distracting, irrelevant, or unreliable. **FIND A NEW EXAMPLE.**
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Final Reflection Questions (Before Committing)

1. Does this example represent the most compelling evidence for my point, or am I settling for it?
2. How will I introduce and analyze this example to maximize its impact?
3. Does my set of examples, as a whole, provide diverse and comprehensive proof of my thesis?

(Save and print this checklist. Use it to score each potential example during the brainstorming and outlining phase of your writing.)