

Evaluation for A Level Global

Why Even Try?

- Evaluation is worth 20 points out of 75.
- There's more than one way to evaluate.
- It's EASY once you have a formula you're comfortable using.
- You'll make Dr. Crieffeld happy.

Evaluative Words

- Diagnose
- Examine
- Determine
- Identify
- Appraise
- Gauge
- Assess
- Calculate
- Consider
- Review
- Judge

Do **NOT** confuse these with analytical words (establishes, suggests, exemplifies, etc.)

Analytical phrasing involves pulling apart the quote. Evaluative language requires condensing your conclusions from the analysis into a bite-sized sentence. Do **NOT** assume your reader is following you until you evaluate what the quote/source means in the broader scope of your paper.

Things People Forget

Connect back to the topic of your paper

- How is your source relevant to the subject matter of the paper? Why did you choose this source over another?
- What about the quote supports your point?

Do **NOT** use the words reputable or biased

- Why? A source should speak for itself – if it's reputable, the facts will spell it out for the reader. Also, everyone is biased, so you're just wasting words when you call a source biased.
- Instead, use critical, vital, important, crucial, essential, etc.

***ALWAYS** bring the evaluation to a positive end*

Creating a Formula

The formula for source and content evaluation are structurally similar, but differ in their constituent parts.

Source:

When [evaluative word/phrase] the usage of this source in the context of [topic of paper], it is clear that due to [reason], the author is a [positive term] source on the matter.

Content:

Due to [main take away from the quote], one can [evaluative word/phrase] from the [analysis based on the source] that [judgement].

These will be explored later on.

Source Evaluation Formula

When [evaluative word/phrase] the usage of this source in the context of [topic of paper], it is clear that due to [reason], the author is a [positive term] source on the matter.

For example, for a paper on social media communities, one might write:

When assessing the value of Pope Francis's expertise on social media and religion, such testimony is important due to his responsibility over all congregations of his creed, making him an expert on religious communities

Why use the formula?

Evaluative Word/Phrases

- If you don't use evaluative phrases, your grader won't know you're examining the previously stated facts and analysis. They have to see your thought process as you weigh the pros and the cons.

Topic of Paper

- No matter how educated your source is, their testimony doesn't matter unless they are educated on the subject your paper is on. Even though your source has a doctorate and a tenure track professorship in paleontology, they wouldn't be a good source to use in a paper about the American Automotive Industry. Comparing the topic of your paper to the expertise of the source reminds the audience of the reason they are relevant to the argument

Reason

- This tells the audience which reason really pushes the source from good to GREAT.

Positive Term

- This one's fairly obvious – use an objective but positive term to hammer home your confidence in the source and encourage the reader to adopt it.

Additional Options:

If you have a source that either has relatively strong negatives, try to put a spin on it so that you can show just how much the positives outshine it.

Example:

In **diagnosing** the impact of Matar's expertise versus her potential risks when discussing the subject of **community**, her testimony is shown to be **intrinsically valuable** not **just because of her academics but for her experience** in the places most affected.

As you can see, you can reorder the formula as long as all parts are included.

VARY your sentence structure

If you follow the formula exactly, it won't flow properly.

Sample Source Evaluations

Simple sentences:

Due to his **experience** in **modern media**, one can **determine** that he is an **important** voice in the argument.

Because of her **years of experience in the medical field**, a **judgement** can be made that she is a **critical** figure in the discussion of the **ethics of health insurance**.

When **gauging** the effect of Brown's expertise on the subject of **sports ethics**, one can clearly see that because of her **extensive education** on the subject, she presents a **valuable** perspective on the topic at hand

More Complex Sentences:

When **assessing** the value of Pope Francis's expertise on **social media and religion**, such testimony is important due to his **responsibility over all congregations of his creed**, making him an **expert** on religious communities.

In **considering** the length of time between her academic research and industrial employment, the overwhelming scope of her experience, and the nature of her research in relation to **social media "fandoms,"** Tsay-Vogel is clearly a **vital** voice in the social media community argument.

When **gauging** the effectiveness of Monica Stephens as a source on the **maintenance of communities**, the value of her **expertise paired with her chosen specialization** in social media and geography make her a **prime** researcher in the topic area.

Take Aways for Source Evaluations

- Use evaluative words/phrases to make it easy for your reader to award points for evaluation
- Tell your reader why you chose the source
- Use the formula, though it can be reordered for your comfort
- Do **NOT** use the words biased, reliable, reputable, valid, etc.

Content Evaluation Formula

Due to [main take away from the quote], one can [evaluative word/phrase] from the [analysis based on the source] that [judgement].

Example:

Due to the widespread nature of religion in the modern world and the increasing use of social media websites to practice faith, one can determine from the information provided by this source is indicative of potential for the formation of communities and the expansion, not the erosion, of existing ones.

Why use the Formula?

Main Take Away From the Quote

- Acts as a sort of conclusion of the analysis portion of your work, and segues into the evaluation.
- Reminds the reader of the reason you included the quote in the first place; don't trust them to connect the dots by themselves.

Evaluative Words/Phrases

- Makes your evaluation easily identifiable for the grader.
- Same reason as the source evaluation.

Analysis Based on the Source

- Leads the reader from the information from the quote into your own ideas extrapolated based on that information.
- Shows the reader how you came to your judgement.

Judgement

- This brings your reader back to the question you were asking at the beginning of your paper.
- It tells the reader whether it supports or contradicts your thesis.

Like source evaluation, you can alter the structure to suit your writing style. I recommend you vary it as much as you are comfortable to make your paper flow more easily.

Examples:

When evaluating the effect this evidence has on the argument, it is clear that, due to the shifting from organized religion toward a more individualized spiritual experience, the established community structures of religious groups have begun to erode due to a lack of homogeneity.

In reviewing the evidence, one can see that it leads to the notion that the American consumer is failing the industry due to a belief that American Auto Automobiles are for the old, from which newer generations attempt to further themselves, thus failing America as a direct result of this generational divide.

Close examination of the evidence finds that, while these artists finally emerged from making art to serve the revolution and began to develop their own “leftist art,” the fact that their art was at any point under the control of political forces reveals that their art was still tamed for a period of time.

As you can see, content evaluations are usually longer than source evaluations, but are much more fluid in their structure. They flow more easily from the analysis, because you spend a solid paragraph talking about *your take aways* from the evidence you presented. This naturally leads into your opinion on the evidence, and whether it suited your argument. This formula can be reordered in any number of ways to effectively suit your writing style.

Notice that every one of these examples includes very specific phrasing that may even seem awkward when read out of context (“community structures... have begun to erode,” “the American consumer is failing the industry,” and “art was still tamed”). This is because it connects DIRECTLY to the question they are each answering (Is social media eroding communities? Did the automobile industry fail America? Can art be tamed?). Your judgement should take into account the larger context in which you have placed this quote

Take Aways for Content Evaluation

- Even if evaluative words don’t come naturally the way your judgements do, find a way to incorporate them in graceful way
- Remind your reader of the analysis that led you to this judgement.
- Connect DIRECTLY back to the topic of your paper.

Key Points for Evaluation

- Use evaluative words – don’t confuse them for analytical words
- Include the main point of your analysis to hammer home content evaluation
- Remind the reader of the topic of your paper, and, specifically, the methodology in which the evaluation is written
- Make a JUDGEMENT
- Always end positively