Teaching Script: Evidence Evaluation in Academic Writing

Lesson Overview
Duration: 80 minutes
Level: Upper Intermediate University
Focus: Evidence Evaluation in Academic Writing
Prior Knowledge Required: Basic academic writing skills, research experience
Learning Objectives:

- Master the evaluation of academic evidence sources
- Apply critical analysis to source credibility
- Develop evidence-based argumentation skills
- Create structured evidence evaluations

✓ Evidence evaluation rubrics	✓ Sample academic texts	✓ Digital presentation access
✓ Student worksheets	✓ Academic database login	✓ CRAAP test templates
✓ Source evaluation guides		

Pre-Session Setup (0-5 minutes)

[Before students arrive]

"Prepare the learning environment for optimal engagement with evidence evaluation."

Room Setup Checklist:

- Configure desks into pods of 4 students
- Test digital presentation system
- Verify database access credentials
- Position evidence hierarchy poster
- Arrange handout stations

Preparation Notes:

- Have backup offline resources ready
- Prepare quick-access bookmarks for academic databases
- Set up example stations with varied evidence types

- Create whiteboard sections for key concepts

Opening Engagement (5-15 minutes)

[Display contrasting evidence examples]

"Today we're exploring how to evaluate evidence in academic writing. Let's start with an experiment in persuasion. Here are two arguments about social media's impact on mental health - which do you find more convincing, and why?"

Engagement Examples:

- Example 1: Personal blog post claiming social media causes depression
- Example 2: Peer-reviewed study with statistical evidence

[Expected responses: Discussion of credibility, data vs. opinion, research methods]

Discussion Prompts:

- "What makes one source more reliable than another?"
- "How do we know which evidence to trust?"
- "What role does expertise play in credibility?"

Core Instruction (15-35 minutes)

[Present Evidence Hierarchy Pyramid]

"Let's explore the hierarchy of evidence in academic writing. Think of this as a trustworthiness scale for your sources."

Evidence Hierarchy (Top to Bottom):

1. Systematic Reviews & Meta-analyses
    - Multiple studies combined
    - Comprehensive analysis
    - Rigorous methodology
2. Randomized Controlled Trials
    - Experimental design
    - Control groups
    - Statistical significance
3. Cohort Studies
    - Longitudinal data
    - Population tracking
    - Correlation analysis

Interactive Elements:

- Have students categorize sample sources
- Compare evidence types in real articles
- Practice identifying methodology types

Common Misconceptions:

- All published research is equally valid
- Newer sources are always better
- Popular media represents academic consensus

CRAAP Test Implementation (35-50 minutes)

"Now we'll learn a systematic way to evaluate any source using the CRAAP test. This framework helps us assess Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, and Purpose."

CRAAP Analysis Steps:

Component	Key Questions	Application
Currency	When was it published? Has it been updated?	Check publication dates Look for revisions

Relevance	Does it fit your needs? Who is the audience?	Match to research question Check scope and depth

CRAAP Test Implementation (continued)

Authority	Who is the author? What are their credentials?	Verify institutional affiliations Check author expertise
Accuracy	Is it supported by evidence? Can it be verified?	Cross-reference sources Examine methodology
Purpose	Why was it created? Is there bias?	Identify intent Analyze objectivity

Group Activity:

Divide students into pairs and assign different source types:

- Academic journal article
- News media report
- Professional blog post
- Government research paper
- Industry white paper

Source Analysis Workshop (50-65 minutes)

"Now we'll apply these evaluation skills to real academic sources. Each group will analyze their assigned text using our evaluation framework."

Workshop Components:

1. Initial Source Review (5 minutes)
    - Scan document structure
    - Identify key claims
    - Note citation patterns
2. Deep Analysis (10 minutes)
    - Apply CRAAP test
    - Document findings
    - Prepare presentation

Evidence Integration Techniques (65-75 minutes)

"Let's explore how to effectively integrate evidence into your academic writing using these evaluated sources."

Evidence Integration Strategies:

Method	Application	Example
Direct Quotation	Use for precise language or definitions	"The data indicates a 45% increase..." (Smith, 2023)
Paraphrase	Restate ideas in your own words	Smith (2023) found that rates increased significantly...
Summary	Condense multiple findings	Recent studies suggest a growing trend...

Integration Exercise:

Students will practice each integration method using their analyzed sources:

1. Select key evidence from source
2. Practice all three integration methods
3. Peer review integration attempts
4. Revise based on feedback

Assessment and Closure (75-80 minutes)

Quick Assessment:

- Source evaluation speed round
  - Show 3 sources rapidly
  - Students identify strengths/weaknesses
  - Class discusses evaluations
- Integration technique identification
  - Display sample paragraphs
  - Students identify integration methods
  - Explain effectiveness of each

Session Summary:

- Review key evaluation criteria
- Reinforce CRAAP test components
- Highlight integration techniques
- Preview next session's content

Extended Learning:

Students will:

1. Find one academic source on their research topic
2. Complete full CRAAP test evaluation
3. Write three different evidence integrations
4. Prepare to discuss in next session

Additional Resources

Digital Tools:

- Citation management software guides
- Academic database tutorials
- Source evaluation worksheets
- Integration practice templates

Reference Materials:

- Academic Writing Style Guide
- Evidence Evaluation Rubric
- Sample Analysis Documents
- Integration Method Examples

Practical Application (50-70 minutes)

"Let's put these skills into practice with real academic sources."

Group Exercise:

1. Each group receives different source types
2. Apply CRAAP test methodology
3. Present findings to class
4. Peer review evaluations

Evaluation Rubric:

- Source identification accuracy
- Depth of analysis
- Evidence hierarchy placement
- Critical thinking demonstration

Closing Review (70-80 minutes)

"Let's consolidate what we've learned about evidence evaluation."

Key Takeaways:

- Evidence hierarchy determines source strength
- CRAAP test provides systematic evaluation
- Critical analysis requires multiple perspectives
- Academic writing demands quality evidence

Extended Learning:

Select three sources on your research topic and complete full CRAAP test evaluations. Submit analysis with comparative discussion.