In the **Support and Evidence** category, you have achieved a rating of **Emerging**.

You can improve your writing score in this category by revising your essay based on specific criteria.

In order to move up to the **Developing** rating, your writing must

* add reasons and evidence to support the claim; and
* include reasoning to demonstrate an understanding of the topic or text(s).

**Step 1**

Use the table from the entry ticket to examine the support already in your essay.

**Examine Your Reasons**

Start by examining the reasons you sketched in the first column. Ask yourself the following questions:

1. Does each reason support my claim? Is the language in my reason clearly related to the claim reflecting key phrases that make the connection obvious to readers?
2. Are there other reasons I could add to support my claim?

On your table, cross out any reasons that don’t support your claim, and fill in empty cells with new reasons you can support with evidence. You will make these changes to your essay when you revise.

**Add Evidence**

Next, look at the evidence you described in the second column. Evidence can include facts or examples that support the claim and reason, proving that the claim is sound. Ask yourself the following question:

1. Do I have facts or examples to support each of my reasons?

If not, mark on your table where you will add evidence. Note the type of evidence you will look for to support the reason. When you revise, you should find this evidence and add it to your essay.

**Add Reasoning**

Your support paragraphs should include reasoning to explain how your evidence connects to the reason and supports the claim. Reasoning demonstrates an understanding of the topic or text(s).

Check the last column in your table. Ask yourself the following questions:

1. Are there places where I should add reasoning?
2. Will I add new reasons and evidence that I need to explain?
3. Can I make my reasoning clearer so that it better connects my evidence to my claim?

**Step 2**

**Use your table to plan your revision**

Fill the holes that you’ve found in your reasons, evidence, and reasoning.

Now, revise your essay to improve its support and evidence.**Need Help Understanding Support & Evidence?**

Here is an example of how you might improve support for a claim:

**Claim:**

While some people argue that cats make better pets than dogs, dogs are clearly the better pets for people.

**Reason Without Evidence and Reasoning:**

Dogs cause people to have to go outside to take their dogs for a walk.

**Reason with Evidence Added to Support the Reason; No Reasoning:**

Dogs cause people to have to go outside to take their dogs for a walk. People who have dogs walk 22 minutes more per day than people who don’t have dogs.

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| **Support and Evidence (Level 2—Developing Description)** |
| The essay uses some evidence but may not precisely explain how it supports the claim. The essay includes some reasoning and demonstrates a superficial understanding of the topic or text(s). The support of the claim may rely on summary of the source and may not acknowledge counterclaims. |
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**Reason and Evidence with Reasoning:**

Dogs cause people to have to go outside to take their dogs for a walk. People who have dogs walk 22 minutes more per day than people who don’t have dogs. That means people who own dogs are healthier because they are walking outside more.

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| **Support and Evidence (Level 3—Proficient Description)** |
| The essay uses clear, relevant evidence and explains how the evidence support the claim. The essay demonstrates logical reasoning and understanding of the topic or text(s). Counterclaims are acknowledged but may not be adequately explained and/or distinguished from the essay's central claim. |
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**Reason and Evidence with Reasoning and Acknowledgement of the Counterclaim:**

Dogs cause people to have to go outside to take their dogs for a walk. People who have dogs walk 22 minutes more per day than people who don’t have dogs. That means people who own dogs are healthier because they are walking outside more than people who have cats who don’t need to go outside.

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| **Support and Evidence (Level 4—Advanced Description)** |
| The essay cites the most relevant, appropriate, and valid evidence to support its claim. The essay fully explains how the evidence cited and reasons support the claim. The essay demonstrates reasoning and full understanding of the topic or text(s). Counterclaims are acknowledged and/or distinguished from essay's central claim. |
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## **Vocabulary Supports**

**Argument**—an attempt to persuade or convince others to accept an opinion or position on an issue

**Claim**—an arguable position on an issue

**Counterclaim**—a different position on an issue that opposes the writer’s claim

**Evidence**—details such as facts, statistics, or quotations that support the writer’s claim

**Focus**—the set of related ideas used by a writer to support an argument; an argument that lacks focus, presents unrelated ideas, or goes off topic

**Prompt**—the information and instructions students are responding to when writing an argument

**Reason**—a statement explaining why a writer takes a particular position in an argument

**Reasoning**—an explanation of how a reason and its supporting evidence connect to the claim