

## Teaching Notes

The goal of RI.5.8 is for students to explain the reasons and evidence that authors of informational texts use to support points. Make sure students understand the difference between points, reasons, and evidence. It may be helpful to use different colored highlighters to mark points, reasons, and evidence when modeling for students.

### Activities

1. Provide students with an article on a topic the class is studying. Have students fill out a graphic organizer with the main point(s) the author is making and the supporting reasons and evidence.
2. Ask students to write an informational piece on a topic of interest, including reasons and evidence to support their points. Have students switch papers and present their partner's paper to the class, explaining the main point(s) and the supporting reasons and evidence.
3. Assign students the task of finding an article in a newspaper or magazine in which the author uses reasons and evidence to support main points.
4. Write an essay together as a class. Come up with the main points of the essay. Ask students to provide the reasons and evidence to craft a solid piece of writing.

### Additional Resources

Consider these additional resources when teaching RI.5.8:

- **“Author’s Points, Reasons, and Evidence”**: This resource provides a teaching guide for author’s points, reasons, and evidence, including a graphic organizer to use during a lesson:  
<http://www.reallygoodstuff.com/images/art/306103.pdf>
- **“A Close Read of ‘Civil Rights on a City Bus’”**: This resource includes a lesson plan with passage and worksheet for students to use when learning how to explain reasons and evidence:  
<http://www.cpalms.org/Public/PreviewResourceLesson/Preview/61651>
- **“Understanding Supporting Evidence”**: This resource includes several worksheets with passages, graphic organizers, and worksheets to use with students. There is also instructional information on teaching to this standard:  
<http://www.shenet.org/arongen/jhubert/ELASupport/CC2014NY5RRISEL19.pdf>