

## Synthesizing Information (actual writing part)

### Writing LEAF paragraphs

A structure for writing paragraphs (remembered with the acronym LEAF) provides for smooth reading and transitions from one main point to the next. Structure allows for the reader to understand the main points and how they are supported by evidence. It also provides a logical paragraph construction sequence to analyze the meaning of the supporting evidence, importance or lack thereof. And essential to easy-to-follow reading, paragraphs finish with either a summary statement or a transition to the next paragraph.

LEAF stands for:

<b>L</b> is Lead.	This is the essential question or main point. What are you answering or asserting?
<b>E</b> is evidence	Evidence is found in many sources and is what is most commonly cited in research papers. Evidence can be found in published work, interviews, conference presentations, videos, and any valid source of information (see CRAAP test on CVU library research web page for determining valid sources of information: <a href="http://library.cvuhs.org/research">http://library.cvuhs.org/research</a> ).  What supports or disagrees with your main point? What answers the question?
<b>A</b> is analysis	Why is this evidence significant? How does this evidence matter? This sentence is about the impact of the evidence. Does it support the main point or disagree with it?  Easiest way for students to address this is to ask: what jumped out from the evidence that supported my assertion? Why is this evidence relevant? How does that relevancy support the assertion? [  [Michelle will give me material for LEAF. Write it down as “I chose this because.... And then write a sentence without using “I chose this because...”]
<b>F</b> is Finisher	This sentence is a summary statement. It is a little tricky to write without reiterating. It can also be a bridge or connector to the next paragraph, a transition to the next main point.

This format is designed to help organize paragraphs.

**L** is Lead. This is the essential question or main point.

**E** is evidence What supports or disagrees with your main point? What answers the question?

**A** is analysis Why is this evidence significant? How does this evidence matter?

**F** is Finisher This sentence is a summary statement, a bridge or connector to the next paragraph, or a transition to the next main point.