

HOW TO WRITE ~~RIGHT~~

CORRECTLY

CAPITALIZATION

1. Capitalize all proper nouns.
 - a. the names of people
 - b. the names of streets, cities, provinces, states, and countries
 - c. words derived from proper nouns (the South)
 - d. Breeds and plant species (Labrador, Red Delicious apples)
2. Capitalize the first word of quoted sentences.
 - a. He said to her, "May I have this dance?"
3. Capitalize the names of books, movies, artworks, articles, etc.
 - a. Notes from the Midnight Driver
4. Always capitalize the pronoun "I"

SHOW



Notes from the Midnight Driver is a book about an angry, reckless teen and his unexpected friendship with a grumpy, old man.

DON'T

TELL



~~Now, I'm going to tell you about the story.~~ Notes from the Midnight Driver is a book about an angry, reckless teen and his unexpected friendship with a grumpy, old man.

PROPER CITATION FOR EVIDENCE

Direct Quotes

Sol's favorite pastime was pulling pranks, and when he did he would say, "Gotcha" (Sonnenblick, 32).

- Use author, page number
- Punctuation goes at the end

Paraphrasing Evidence

In the chapter "Darkness," Sol reveals that he stopped playing music because of his wife's death. She was killed by a drunk driver after they fought, making him realize that he had been a negligent husband and father.

- Use the chapter/article title
- Be specific about the information

FORMAL LANGUAGE

- Avoid using contractions like *can't*, *won't*, and *couldn't*
- Use specific language rather than pronouns and words like *stuff*, *a lot*, *things*.
 - They learned a lot. vs
 - Sol and Alex learned compassion and kindness from each other.
- Stick to one verb tense unless others are needed. A good rule is to stay in the present tense unless you are writing about historical events.

EVIDENCE AND ELABORATION

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- You need both!
 - Evidence on its own is just a quote.
 - Elaboration is needed to show your reader how the evidence proves your claim or supports your thesis.
 - Even paraphrasing should be supported, otherwise it lacks purpose.
- Always cite your sources! Without sources:
 - Your evidence lacks power (why should someone care?)
 - You could be accused of plagiarism.