

**INVESTIGATION**

**BIGFOOT**



# **NOTES + SUGGESTIONS**

The following source investigation is an opportunity for students to put together many of the elements learned in the History Skills Unit.

This includes ...

- Identifying source types.
- Analysing + evaluating sources.
- Extended writing ... paragraph and / or essay.
- The concept of 'historians as detectives.'

The supporting investigation table is available for the methodical recording of sources. It is not necessary to study every source.

# IS BIGFOOT REAL?

A good History Detective should be ....

**SUBJECTIVE ...**

CERTAIN that Bigfoot does / does not exist before looking at the evidence?

**OBJECTIVE ...**

Open - minded and ready to analyse and evaluate information before coming to a conclusion?

# **BIGFOOT BASICS ...**

**WHERE DOES BIGFOOT LIVE?**

**OTHER KNOWN NAMES / SIMILAR CREATURES - YETI?**


**DO YOU BELIEVE BIGFOOT EXISTS?**

**WHAT ELSE DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BIGFOOT?**

**OPTIONAL STARTER  
DOCUMENTARY ... 45 MINS**



# Does the North American Bigfoot Exist?

 **Mission:** to test the evidence and decide for yourself if Bigfoot is real or not.

A Native American storyteller, Harvest Moon of the Choctaw tribe tells the tale of the "Shampe" or Bigfoot. She speaks about a monster that frightens tribal members and stops them from hunting and gathering food. "His legs were as big as tree trunks. His skin was as tough as leather and his eyes had a glow to them. The monster started chasing native women through the berry patch. He then took his huge feet, kicking over every basket of berries, squashing them on the ground". Harvest moon then tells us warriors from the tribe made plans to kill the monster. They dug a hole, tricked the Shampe into falling into it and burned him. As the Shampe died, he swore he would return to drink the villagers' blood. As his ashes ascended into the air, they turn into mosquitos.

**A**



The Famous Patterson - Gimlin Film, 1967.

There has never been any fossils of a large animal like Bigfoot found in North America – even though the same soil types has given up everything else that ever lived in the area, including dinosaur bones. There have been fossils of a known giant ape known as Gigantopithecus in China, but never been found in America. It seems that something like Bigfoot did once exist, but it has long since died and was thousands of miles away.

[10reasonsnottobeiveinbigfoot.com](http://10reasonsnottobeiveinbigfoot.com)

**C**

*"I had a plan to catch the monster. I laced (put) sedative (sleeping pills) into the orange juice and left the orange juice unopened in the dumpster (a big rubbish bin). He would come and drink the juice and then I knew I had him. It was late as I waited next to the dumpster. I must have dozed off (slept) when I heard a noise. The first thing that hit me was the smell. It smelled like rotten eggs. I looked up into the dumpster and there he was. I looked into his face and all I saw was pure rage (anger). I took out my pistol (gun) an fired two shots at him but missed. He jumped up out of the dumpster and was gone in two seconds flat. I have never been so afraid".*

Florida Hunter, Dan Jackson in 2003.

**D**



Native American Cave Art c 3000BC.

**E**

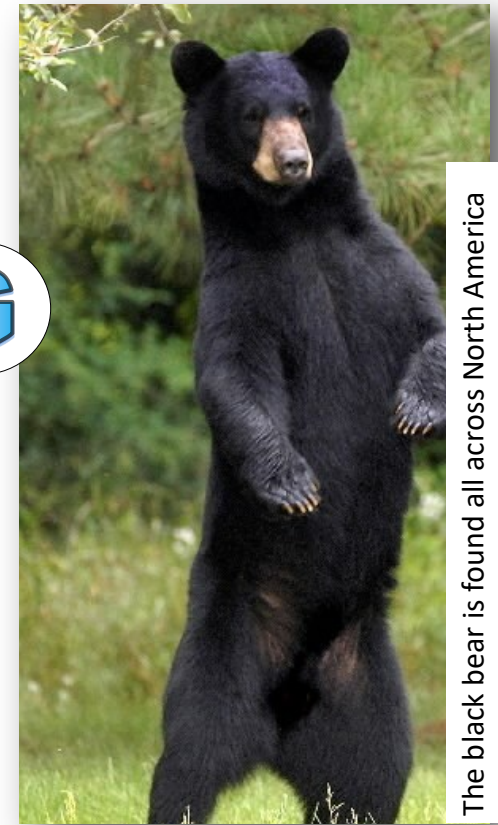


A recent study has found that many Bigfoot sightings could easily be American Black Bears walking on their back legs. Black bears stand up to 7 feet tall when walking in this way. When at a distance, or in poor light, it can be easy to mistake a bear for a Bigfoot, especially when Bigfoot believers, or those seeking attention **want** and **hope** to see the real thing.

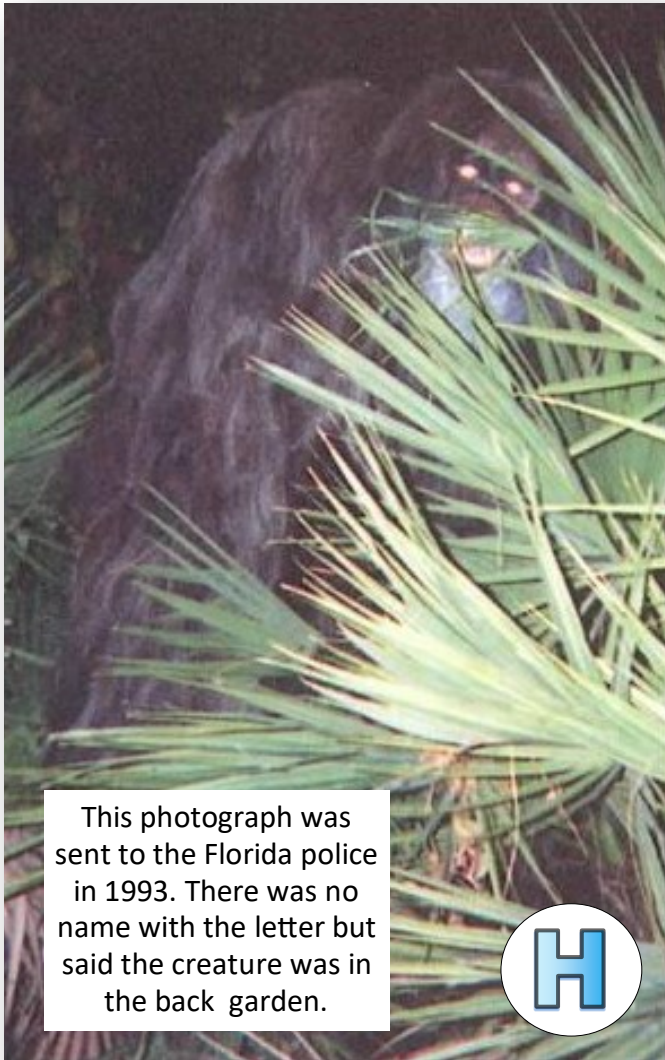
**Newspaper Article, Washington, 2011.**

**F**

**G**



The black bear is found all across North America



This photograph was sent to the Florida police in 1993. There was no name with the letter but said the creature was in the back garden.

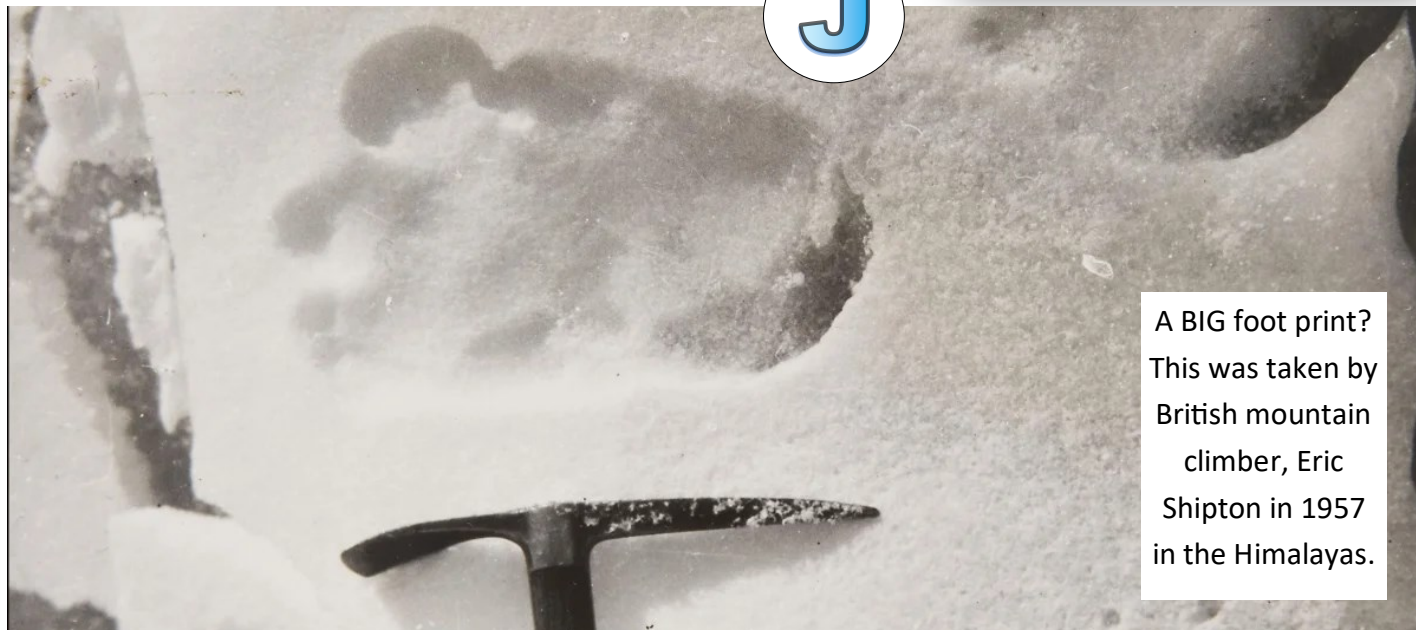
**H**

**The Birth of Bigfoot - August 27, 1958.**

While working on a building site in northwest California, a tractor operator named Jerry Crew discovered many massive, 16-inch footprints tracked through the mud. Due to the size of the prints, the TV and newspapers began calling the creature "Bigfoot" and this name has continued until today.

It was thought that another worker, Ray Wallace, had made the footprints by strapping carved wooden feet to his boots and stomping around in the mud. After Ray Wallace died in 2002 his family came clean and admitted that Ray had made the prints himself just to play a prank (joke) on his friends.

**J**



A BIG foot print? This was taken by British mountain climber, Eric Shipton in 1957 in the Himalayas.

It is impossible that we have had tens of thousands of Bigfoots living in North America. Surely such creatures would leave us at least one piece of evidence, like a bone, hair, blood or skin sample, so where are the bodies? Unless Bigfoots never die there must be hundreds of dead ones out there right now. Why hasn't anyone ever found one? We have found plenty of footprints – but no real proof. There is a 1 million dollar reward for anyone who can bring back the body of a Bigfoot. Lots of people are trying but no one ever has. All things considered, it seems that we can safely assume that there are no such thing as a Bigfoot in North America.

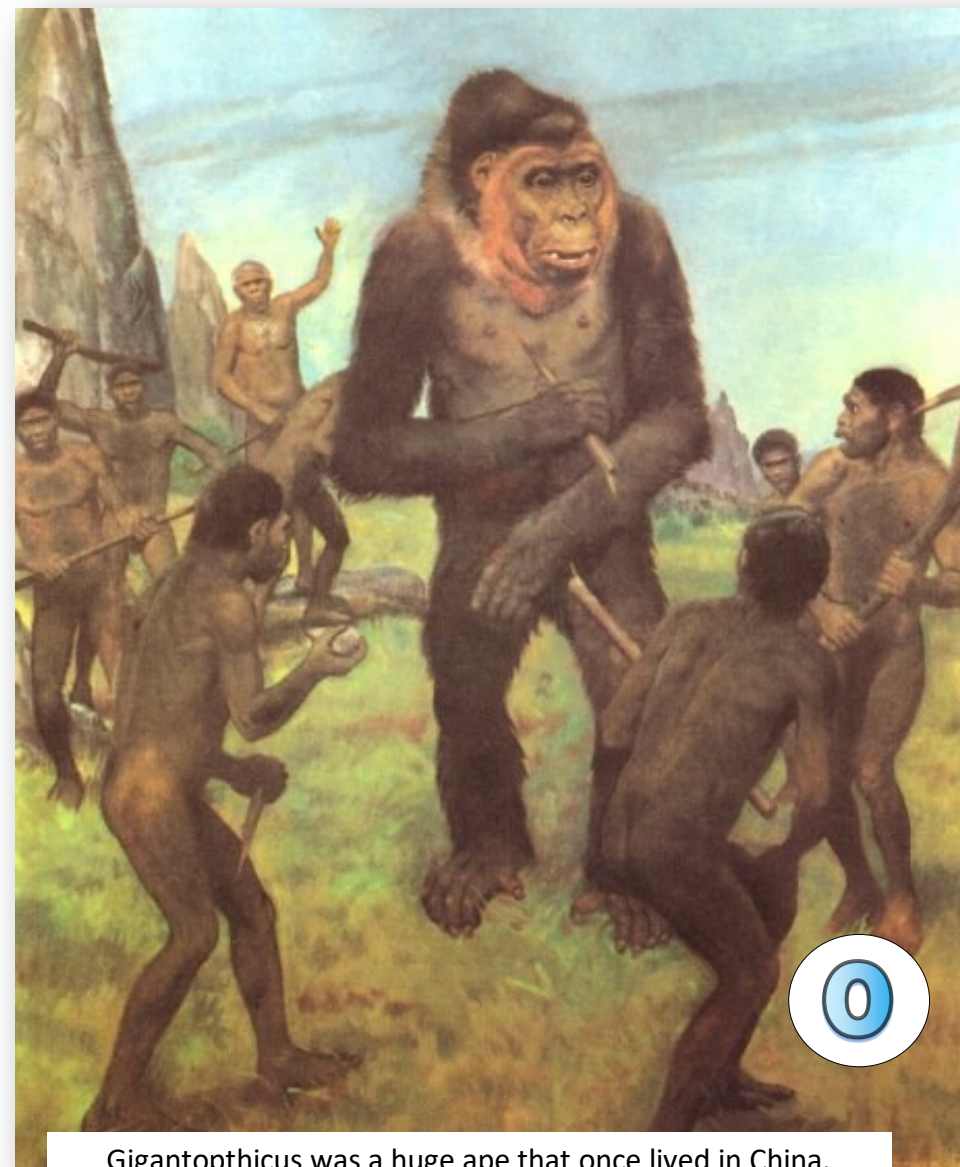
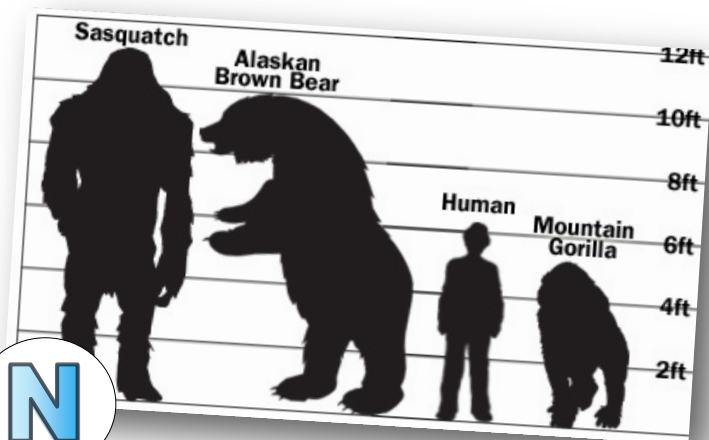


Scientist, Errol Smith, 2012.



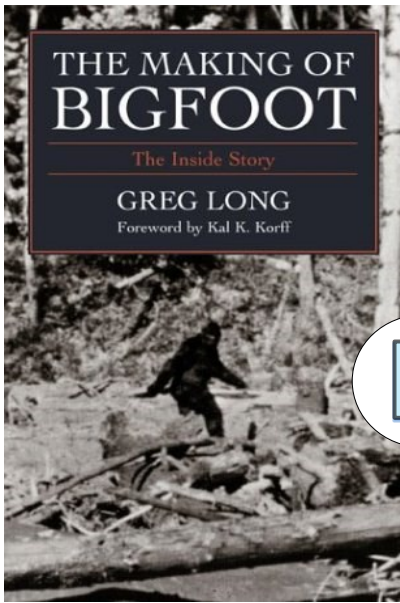
'Our elders tell us he has always been here. We leave him alone and he leaves us alone. He is a guardian of the forest and we don't try to hunt, catch or kill him. We know he is there and we call him our brother'.

'Little Hawk',  
A Native  
American tribe  
member.  
2002.

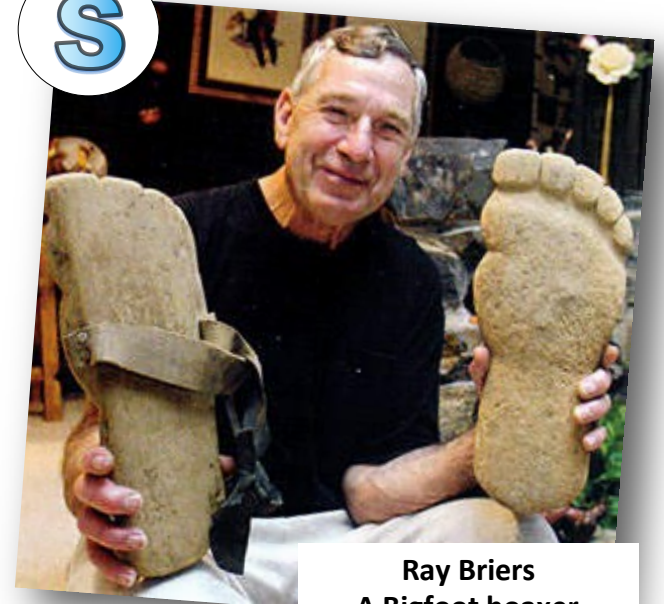


Gigantopithecus was a huge ape that once lived in China.





Greg Long, the author of the book, *'The Making Of Bigfoot'* claims that **Roger Patterson** signed an agreement with a woman who gave him money to make up "Bigfoot" film. Another witness says Patterson had asked him how to make fake (hoax) Bigfoot tracks. Many other witnesses say Roger Patterson showed them the Bigfoot costume that Patterson used to fake the film. Roger Patterson is now dead but his friend, **Bob Gimlin**, who was with him when he filmed the Bigfoot still says that the video



**Ray Briers**  
A Bigfoot hoaxer.



The Patterson - Gimlin film analysed.

'They hunt and do all their work at night. They come at night and steal fish from their nets and eat them raw. But people are awake and know when they come. They notice them first from their smell which is most terrible.'  
**1840 - The Diary of E Walker. A Christian Missionary who spent time with the Native American People.**



The average Bigfoot sighting describes the creature at over 8ft tall. The question that needs to be asked is how such an enormous (big) creature could hide from capture by humans. Every year new types animals are found all over the world, but they all have one thing that is the same, they are all tiny (very small). When was the last time a new species of giant elephant was discovered? The point being that if tens of thousands of 8 foot tall, 500 pound ape-men were out there, we would have found them by now.

[www.mysterieexplained.com](http://www.mysterieexplained.com) : 2005.


Source	'Who' Provenance	Date	Date Primary Secondary Tertiary	<b>Bigfoot Does Exist</b> Reasons to support based on source	<b>Bigfoot Does Not Exist</b> Reasons not to support based on source
A	Native American Harvest Moon	?	Secondary	Harvest Moon is a Native American. Native Americans have lived in North America longer than anyone else. They have very good knowledge of nature and the land.  <i>Give a score for strength of source for / against or both</i> 0 1 <b>2</b> 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Uses strong language ... 'every' basket. She is a storyteller - exaggeration or for entertainment Many parts of the story are very hard to believe - for example 'his ashes turned into mosquitos'  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 <b>9</b> 10
				0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
				0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
				0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
				0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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				<p>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>
				<p>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>

# Does the North American Bigfoot Exist ? ... brainstorm list

 **Mission** - to brainstorm reasons for OR against the existence of Bigfoot then classify ideas into similar groups.

Does NOT Exist Score		Does Exist score	
Brainstorm idea then categorise reasons below			



Paragraph 1

Main Point =

Paragraph 2

Main Point =

Paragraph 3

Main Point =

# Learning to 'PEEL'

During this activity you will learn how to PEEL.

PEEL is a very important skill to learn if you want to be explain your ideas clearly and be able to write a well structured paragraph.

Before PEELing let's make sure you can write using a full sentence.

Each question below is worth 2 marks.

One mark for the answer (1)

One mark for using a full sentence (1)



1

## Using Full Sentences

Who is the **current president** of the **United States of America**? ( 2 )

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What is the name of capital city of France? ( 2 )

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What is the name of your favourite animated movie? ( 2 )

---

What is the most useful subject taught in this school? ( 2 )

---

Why is answering questions using a full sentence a useful and important skill? ( 2 )

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2

## I 'PEEL' for the perfect paragraph.

The questions above need only short answers, however, other question types ( essays ) ask that you write in more detailed paragraphs . This can seem frightening or hard at first but by following structure and with a little practise it will become easier.

**I** **ntro**

**P** **oint**

**E** **xample**

**E** **xplain**

**L** **ink**

**this is the BIG answer to the question**

**an important idea why**

**to support / back up your idea**

**the details of your example**

**show how **ex + exp** answer the ? set**

### 3 What is the most intelligent animal on earth?

**I** ntro

The most intelligent animal on earth is the dog

**P** oint

Dogs can be trained to do many important jobs

**E** xample

Guide dogs

**E** xplain

They help to guide people who can't see very well

**L** ink

This is intelligent because dogs know humans need their help

**E** xample 2?

Also, sniffer dogs ... ( then repeat as above )



### 4 What is the most dangerous animal on earth?

**I** ntro

Use a full sentence!

**P** oint

**E** xample

**E** xplain

**L** ink

### 5 Try one of the questions below

What is the best movie you have ever seen?

Which is more important, friends or family?

What is the best smart phone?

Which is better, the Xbox, PlayStation or PC?

Who is the most evil person in history?

What is the best / football / rugby / soccer / cricket team in your country?

**I** ntro

Use a full sentence!

**P** oint

**E** xample

**E** xplain

**L** ink

# PARAGRAPH / ESSAY WRITING

You could use the Bigfoot investigation as stimulus for a piece of extended writing. This could range from ...

- One PEEEL paragraph for / against Bigfoot's existence.
- A short essay for / against Bigfoot's existence.
- A longer balanced essay that gives both sides, then reaches a conclusion.

There is an essay planning sheet example provided.



# USING EVIDENCE ...

A good History Detective will support findings with evidence.

Evidence is used to support your main points + examples.

## What is evidence?

- A 'quote' or line from something written in one of the sources.
- A "quote" from something spoken – e.g. part of a witness statement, expert or historian.
- A statistic or specific piece of data.

## Some tips on evidence ...

- Use evidence from more reliable sources of information.
- Try to use one piece of reliable evidence in each paragraph.
- Keep evidence short - don't write out lengthy extracts from sources.
- Make sure your credit / reference to show where your evidence came from.

*"Our elders tell us he has always been here." Little Hawk, Native Elder.*

# Does the North American Bigfoot Exist?

**Introduction:** ( Your BIG answer to the question )

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*Firstly ...*

**Point 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_  
E \_\_\_\_\_  
E \_\_\_\_\_  
E \_\_\_\_\_  
L \_\_\_\_\_

*Moreover ...*

**Point 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_  
E \_\_\_\_\_  
E \_\_\_\_\_  
E \_\_\_\_\_  
L \_\_\_\_\_

*Finally ...*

**Point 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_  
E \_\_\_\_\_  
E \_\_\_\_\_  
E \_\_\_\_\_  
L \_\_\_\_\_

*In conclusion ...*

**Conclusion:** your main argument + any patterns? + final piece of evidence?

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POINT	EXAMPLE	EXPLAIN	EXPLAIN	"EVIDENCE"	LINK
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