**11AP**

**First-Hand Evidence**

First-hand evidence is something that you know, whether it’s from personal experience, anecdotes you’ve heard from others, observations, or your general knowledge of events.

1. Personal Experience

The most common type of first-hand evidence is personal experience. Bringing in personal experience adds a human element and can be an effective way to appeal to pathos. For example, when writing about whether you do or do not support same-sex classrooms, you might describe your experience as a student, or you might use your observations about your school or classmates to inform your argument. Personal experience is a great way to make an abstract issue more human, and it is an especially effective technique in the introduction and conclusion of an argument. Personal experience can interest readers and draw them in, but they’ll need more than just your perspective to be persuaded. Personal experience works best if the writer can speak as an insider. For instance, you can speak knowledgeably about the issue of single-sex classrooms because you have inside knowledge about classrooms and how they work.

2. Anecdotes

First-hand evidence also includes anecdotes about other people that you’ve either observed or been told about. Like personal experience, anecdotes can be a useful way to appeal to pathos.

3. Current Events

Current events are another type of evidence that is accessed first-hand through observation. Staying abreast of what is happening locally, nationally, and globally ensures a store of information that can be used as evidence in arguments. Remember that current events can be interpreted in many ways, so seek out multiple perspectives and be on the lookout for bias.