Types of Evidence You Can Use to Develop Your Research Paper—

Students—not everything in the research paper comes from the sources. Your own insights, commentary, descriptions, explanations, and illustrations—all help to add your own voice to the paper, and decrease your reliance on your source material.

You are not creating a data dump paper, but a well-written argumentative essay with some research in it.

Emotional Evidence (also called “pathos” –pay-thos, from the Greek language)

* Description—paint a verbal picture for your reader, “show” rather than only “talk about” your topic. Use rich adjectives and adverbs in your writing. This is especially helpful in the intro and conclusion--as you show examples in your essay…
* Common sense—describing or explaining something that anyone would be able to consider: texting while driving is not safe because we can be emotionally, mentally, and physically distracted…
* Anecdotes—short, true stories—to make a point or illustrate…even if it’s something you’ve experienced, you can present it as something experienced by any American—this relates to using a hypothetical American to “stand in” for all those who are experiencing the same thing. –Example: Sally and George Brown are experiencing challenges raising their son with autism…

Logical Evidence (also called “logos” –lo-gas, from the Greek language)