

ENGL 121 – Visnaw – Winter 2014
EVIDENCE DISSECTION

In today's activity, we'll take a look at successful use of evidence. (Remember what we learned about using evidence effectively from the Indiana U. article.) Working in pairs, you'll analyze the paragraph in the dissecting tray below. You'll take a look at the "guts" of the paragraph and examine whether or not they fit together.

Identify the three following elements in the paragraph (you can highlight them in different colors, draw lines and label them with each element, or use your own method of identification):

1. A claim
2. Evidence that backs up the claim
3. Commentary or explanation that helps the reader understand how the evidence supports the claim

If you cannot find all three of these elements – or if these elements do not appear to be effectively communicated – perform surgery on the paragraph so that these elements are evident and effectively tie the writer's claim and evidence together. (You can rewrite the paragraph on the back of this sheet.)

The knives have been out for Jaden Smith, who is routinely dismissed by blogosphere snark as a lucky-duck celebrity offspring whose dad will do anything to make him a star. I'm someone who thinks that Jaden Smith has a lot of talent; his moody melancholy held that *Karate Kid* remake together. But a movie like *After Earth*, in which he mostly has to act all by himself, taking orders from his father as he dodges post-apocalyptic clichés, isn't doing him any favors.

Source:

Gleiberman, Owen. Rev. of *After Earth*, dir. M. Night Shyamalan. *Entertainment Weekly*. Entertainment Weekly, 30 May 2013. Web. 14 Jan. 2014.