

# Evidence

HLC Standards

# Evidence v. Data

- Data are facts
- Evidence is data used to establish further facts
- Claims
  - Factual- X is either true or false
  - Inferential- Because X is true, Y is true

# Example

- My dog is wagging his tail.
  - Datum or fact
- Because my dog is wagging his tail, he is happy.
  - My dog wagging his tail is now evidence for him being happy.
  - The inferential claim is that a wagging tail means a dog is happy.

# Types of Evidence

- Clear Evidence
- Corroborating Evidence
- Circumstantial Evidence
- Direct vs. Indirect Evidence

# Clear Evidence

- Positive, precise and explicit
- Directly establishes the point
- Dog wagging tail?
- Minutes from an advisory committee meeting showing it made recommendations on improving the program that were addressed in a program review to demonstrate that members of the community have input into academic programs

# Corroborating Evidence

- Additional evidence that strengthens already given evidence
- My dog is also jumping around and playing.
- We interview advisory committee members who report they had input into the program review.

# Circumstantial Evidence

- Evidence that is based on a condition of surrounding circumstances to prove the conclusion.
- Never sufficient on its own
- Allows for other possible conclusions
- Also considered **Indirect Evidence**
- I put a cookie down on a low table and reach for it later, and it's gone. My dog must have eaten it.
- I produce an agenda for an advisory committee with an item entitled "program changes" to demonstrate that the advisory committee had input into the program structure.

# Direct vs. Indirect Evidence

- Direct evidence measures the competency
- Indirect evidence looks at factors that are likely true if the conclusion is true
- Assessment of student learning



Thank You!