

Rubric to Assess Strength of Evidence—Highest to Lowest *

Type of Evidence	Description	Example
Clear	Evidence which is positive, precise and explicit, as opposed to ambiguous, equivocal, or contradictory, and which tends directly to establish the point to which it is adduced, instead of leaving it a matter of conjecture or presumption.	To prove the University President was duly appointed by the Board, clear evidence would be the Board resolution or Board minutes showing a motion to hire said president carried following a vote by the appropriate number of Board members per the Board's by-laws.
Corroborating	Evidence supplementary to that already given and tending to strengthen or confirm it; additional evidence of a different character to the same point.	In the same example to prove the University President was duly appointed by the Board, an offer letter addressed to the incumbent and signed by the Chair of the Board of Trustees would be corroborating evidence.
Circumstantial	Evidence which inferentially proves the principal fact by establishing a condition of surrounding circumstances, whose existence is a premise from which the existence of the principal fact may be concluded by laws of reasoning. Never sufficient on its own.	Using the same example, a letter addressed to the Chair of the Board, signed by the University President accepting the presidential appointment would be circumstantial evidence.

***Reference: Black's Law**