

Claim, Evidence, Reasoning

Answer the question, back it with data, and explain the science that connects them.

Ask yourself

What is my answer to the question?

What data or observations prove it?

What science idea explains why the evidence proves it?

Sentence starters

- My claim is ...
- The data show ...
- In the investigation, ...
- This happens because ...
- This evidence supports my claim because ...

Question: _____

Claim

(A one-sentence answer to the question.)

Evidence

(Numbers, measurements or observations.)

Reasoning

(The science idea that links the evidence to the claim.)



Evidence is what you saw or measured. Reasoning is the science rule that explains it.

Claim, Evidence, Reasoning: Discussion Cards

Cut apart. Take a card. Talk with a partner.

**Is your claim
something you
could test?**

**Which piece of
evidence is
strongest?**

**What science idea
explains the
result?**

**What evidence
would change your
claim?**

Claim, Evidence, Reasoning: For the Teacher

Built for the student who writes a claim and a fact but no link: reasoning gets its own column and its own question.

Show this first (a model)

Question: Do plants need light to grow? Claim: Plants need light to grow. Evidence: the plant by the window grew 5 cm; the plant in the closet grew 1 cm and turned yellow.

Reasoning: the only difference was light, so light helps plants grow.

Works with any text or topic the class is already using: nothing here is tied to one book, so it can be used again all year.

More support: fill in the first row or column together as a model, and let the student draw or say answers while you write.

Less support: fold back the sentence starters, then the questions under the headings. The columns stay, so the thinking stays the same.

SCIENCE

Claim, Evidence, Reasoning

Answer the question, show the data, and say why it works.

Claim

Your answer to the question.

Evidence

A number, unit or observation from the data.

Reasoning

Name the science idea. This shows ___ because ___.

How sure am I?

☐ The data support it ☐ Partly ☐ The data do not support it

Cut here

SCIENCE

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Answer the question, show the data, and say why it works.

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Your answer to the question.

Evidence

A number, unit or observation from the data.

Reasoning

Name the science idea. This shows ___ because ___.

How sure am I?

☐ The data support it ☐ Partly ☐ The data do not support it