

Claim - Evidence - Reasoning Format (CER)

CLAIM

Concluding statement that answers the original question

(Hypothesis)

What do you know?

+

EVIDENCE

Scientific data that supports the claim

Data must be sufficient and relevant

How do you know that?

+

REASONING

Explanation that links your claim to the evidence

Involves a scientific principle that describes why the evidence supports the claim

Why does your evidence support the claim?

= EXPLANATION

Example #1: Who ate the berries?

I think that Wilbur ate the berries (claim).

Wilbur had stains on the hands (evidence).

Wilbur blushed when confronted (evidence).

Wilbur has something dark stuck in his teeth (evidence).

Wilbur picked up the berries and got juice on his hands (reasoning).

People blush when they get caught (reasoning).

The dark objects in his teeth are berry seeds (reasoning).



Example #2: Is the air in a ball matter?

Air is matter (claim).



Our data shows that the weight of the ball increases each time we pumped more air into it (evidence).

This shows that air has weight, one of the characteristics of matter (reasoning).

