SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATIONS

CLAIM

Statement about the results of an investigation

- A one-sentence answer to the question you investigated.
- It answers, **what can you conclude?**
- It should not start with **yes** or **no.**
- It should describe the relationship between **dependent** and **Independent** variables.

EVIDENCE

Scientific data used to support the claim

Evidence must be:

- **Sufficient** — Use enough evidence to support the claim.
- **Appropriate** — Use data that support your claim. Leave out information that doesn't support the claim.
- **Qualitative** — (Using the senses), or **Quantitative** (numerical), or a combination of both.

REASONING

Ties together the claim and the evidence

- Shows **how** or **why** the data count as evidence to support the claim.
- Provides the justification for why **this** evidence is important to **this** claim.
- Includes one or more **scientific principles** that are important to the claim and evidence.

***Remember:** Read what you've written to be sure it makes sense as a whole explanation.

Always write your CER from the perspective of the observer (no first person pronouns like "I" or "we").

CER: Claim-Evidence-Reasoning

Question

Claim

Evidence

Evidence

Evidence

Reasoning