

# Rubric for Evidence-Based Argument\* about Protecting Biodiversity in the Amazon Rain Forest

Components of Scientific Argument	Developing	Approaching	Met
<b>Claim</b> <i>A statement that answers the original question/problem.</i>	No claim is made or the claim is inaccurate. The claim states that biodiversity does not need to be protected.	The claim is accurate.	The claim is accurate and complete.
<b>Evidence</b> <i>Scientific data that supports the claim. The data needs to be appropriate and sufficient to support the claim.</i>	Evidence is not provided or it is inappropriate (it does not support the claim). The evidence provided is vague (the data shows biodiversity is important).	One to two pieces of appropriate evidence are provided. The evidence provided may not be sufficient for supporting the claim.	Three to four pieces of appropriate evidence are provided. The evidence provided is sufficient for supporting the claim.
<b>Reasoning</b> <i>A justification that connects the evidence to the claim.</i>	Reasoning is not provided, does not link evidence to the claim, or is inappropriate.	Reasoning for one to two pieces of evidence is provided.	Reasoning that shows why all evidence supports the claim is provided, using appropriate and sufficient scientific principles.

\*modified from McNeill, K.L., and J. Krajcik. 2012. *Supporting Grade 5–8 Students in Constructing Explanations in Science: The Claim, Evidence and Reasoning Framework for Talk and Writing*. New York: Pearson Allyn & Bacon.

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