

Reading Centre

making a difference

Writing to evaluate and justify
in Years 7 to 10



Thinking to evaluate and justify

Often assessment tasks require writing that requires you to ***evaluate and justify***.



Image: Pixabay

To ***evaluate*** means to use standards or criteria to judge something.

To ***justify*** means to support an evaluation with reasons and/or evidence.

Let's look at how to write an evaluation and justification in Science.

An example task

Consider the following Science task:



Which is the superior animal, a Great White shark or a lion?

The written response should:

- use criteria to compare the two animals
- make a clear decision based on evidence about which animal is better.

Image: Pixabay

What language features are important?

A written ***evaluation*** and ***justification*** will likely include:

- a **topic sentence** to introduce what the explanation is about
- **pronouns** to connect ideas without repeating words, for example, ‘this’, ‘these’, ‘it’ and ‘they’
- **words to compare** and **contrast** and to introduce examples
- **synonyms** to avoid repeating words, for example, ‘breathe’ can be used instead of ‘respire’
- **words to introduce examples** such as, ‘as evidenced by’
- **words to signal conclusion**, for example, ‘thus’.

Sample evaluation and justification

Great White sharks are superior to lions for many reasons. Great Whites have survived on Earth for 15 876 000 more years than lions. At birth, Great White pups are able to fend for themselves whereas lion cubs are not independent until they are 16 months old. Whilst lions can cover 100 metres in 6 seconds compared to 36 seconds for Great Whites, the shark can maintain this speed for longer than a lion. Great White sharks have a sixth sense which allows them to detect electrical signals given off by prey. In comparison, lions only have five senses. Life expectancy of lions is ten to fourteen years which is well short of the seventy years for Great Whites. Thus Great White sharks are superior to lions as evidenced by their physical adaptations for hunting and their longer existence on Earth.

Sample evaluation and justification

Topic sentence

Great White sharks are superior to lions for many reasons. Great Whites have survived on Earth for 15 876 000 more years than lions. At birth, Great White pups are able to fend for themselves whereas lion cubs are not independent until they are 16 months old. Whilst lions can cover 100 metres in 6 seconds compared to 36 seconds for Great Whites, the shark can maintain this speed for longer than a lion. Great White sharks have a sixth sense which allows them to detect electrical signals given off by prey. In comparison, lions only have five senses. Life expectancy of lions is ten to fourteen years which is well short of the seventy years for Great Whites. Thus Great White sharks are superior to lions as evidenced by their physical adaptations for hunting and their longer existence on Earth.

Compare and contrast words

Synonyms

Pronouns

Words to conclude

Words to introduce examples