

RAFT rubric

Category	5 points	4–3 points	2 points	1–0 points
Argument	Provides at least two evidence-based claims. Supports claims with enough logical reasoning and relevant, accurate data and evidence to demonstrate an understanding of fossils, scientific observations, uniformitarianism, Earth-system processes, and changes in a landscape over time.	Provides at least two evidence-based claims. Supports claims with relevant, accurate data and evidence that demonstrate an understanding of the science content.	Provides at least one evidence-based claim. Supports claims with somewhat limited observations and evidence that may demonstrate an understanding of the science content.	Develops a point of view on the issue that is vague or seriously limited and demonstrates weak critical thinking, providing inappropriate or insufficient examples, data, reasons, or other evidence to support the position.
Accuracy	Always provides accurate information that properly reflects ideas and themes related science content.	Provides accurate information but could use more support.	Provides information that has some inaccuracies or omissions.	Provides information that is incomplete or inaccurate.
Academic language	Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the science content.	Uses mostly accurate language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the science content.	Uses somewhat accurate and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the science content.	Displays very limited vocabulary or incorrect word choice.
Perspective	Maintains clear, consistent point of view, tone, and ideas relevant to role-playing. Ideas and information always tied to role and audience.	Explains how character would feel about the event(s).	Shows little insight into how character would feel or act during the event(s).	Does not accurately develop characters, thoughts about, or reactions to the event(s).
Mechanics	Essay contains few to no fragments or run-on sentences; rare errors or mechanical mistakes; writing is fluent.	Essay contains some fragments, run-ons, or other errors; occasional mistakes; writing is generally clear.	Essay contains several sentence errors and mechanical mistakes that may interfere with ideas and clarity of ideas in writing.	Essay contains mechanical mistakes; is marred by numerous errors.