Criteria	1 (Beginner)	2 (Developing)	3 (Accomplished)	4 (Exemplary)
Hypothesis (Your proposed explanation based on evidence)	Complete lack of main idea.	Claim is confusing/unclear/not fleshed out.	Basic claim is made, but no additional information.	Hypothesis is clear, well-written, and supported by subtopics.
Supporting Claims (Ideas that support your hypothesis)	No supporting claims are discussed.	Gives one or two claims; claims are weak, irrelevant and/or confusing.	Gives two or three claims, all of which are strong, clear and thought out.	Three or more accurate claims with excellent supporting evidence.
Opposing Claims (Ideas that oppose your hypothesis, and your rebuttals to them)	No opposing claims are recognized.	Opposition is recognized but not discussed.	Opposing claims are recognized and discussed, but not to their fullest potential.	Opposing claims are analyzed and refuted with evidence supporting original hypothesis.
Organization/Flow (Tone, transitions, logic, set up, etc.)	Ideas are not organized nor addressed logically. Lacking major components (introduction, conclusion, main ideas, etc.). Poor flow (e.g. run-on sentences, or complete lack of variation).	Mostly organized, but not as clear as it could be. Some parts may be missing, such as a main idea or a solid introduction or conclusion. Poor transitioning between ideas; lack of variety in sentence construction.	Good essay structure (beginning, middle and end) with clear main ideas. Transitions and sentence variation is attempted and mostly executed.	Clear, interesting introduction and conclusion, transparent main ideas and supporting analysis. Excellent transitioning between topics with varied sentence structure.
Vocabulary, Spelling & Grammar	Glaring grammatical or spelling errors. Does not use appropriate scientific terminology, nor any other distinguished vocabulary.	Uncommon but obvious grammatical or spelling errors. Some scientific terminology, perhaps not always used correctly. Some use of interesting words.	Few spelling and/or grammar errors. Good use of scientific terminology and interesting vocabulary,	Errors in spelling or grammar are rare or nonexistent. Exceptional use of scientific terms, and application of novel vocabulary.
Sources (Information from reputable places, specifically scientific-based resources)	No academic or reliable sources, solely anecdotal.	Sources used, but are of poor quality (e.g. Wikipedia, .com websites, etc.). Sources do not support the claims.	Decent sources from reputable websites, but no books, journals or other media. Sources support claims.	Excellent use of academic sources from scientific books, research journals, etc. Sources provide excellent supporting evidence for claims.