

Instructions for “The Mystery of the Burned Towel” Essay

For your chemistry essay on “The Mystery of the Burned Towel”, you will make a **Claim**, provide 3 pieces of **Evidence**, and for each piece of evidence provide your **Reasoning**. This is called a CER essay. This essay should be 5 paragraphs, with an introductory paragraph and a conclusion, both of which can be shorter (min 3 sentences). You will present one piece of evidence for each body paragraph and then explain why that evidence supports your claim (these should be a min of 4 sentences each). As you walk through your reasoning, use some of the suggested vocabulary words below. You don’t have to use them all! Just use some where it makes sense to help with being specific. Also please write in third person and scientifically rather than creatively.

Liquid
Vapor
State of matter
Physical property
Chemical property
Physical change
Chemical change
Compound

Solution
Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry
Graph
Qualitative data
Quantitative data
Flammable
Substance
Accuracy

CER Student Graphic Organizer

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graph TD; Q[Question] --> C[Claim]; C --> R1[Reasoning]; C --> R2[Reasoning]; C --> R3[Reasoning]; R1 --> E1[Evidence]; R2 --> E2[Evidence]; R3 --> E3[Evidence]; E1 --> C; E2 --> C; E3 --> C;
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Question:

Claim: What is your answer to the question? It should be more than a "yes" or "no".

Reasoning: How does evidence support your claim? What is the science principle that explains why evidence is linked to the claim?

Evidence: What is a specific observation or data from the lab that supports your claim?

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