

# Constructing Explanations

Elements of Student Performance

**Middle School**



[Science & Engineering Practice 6](#)

## Articulating the explanation of phenomena

Construct a scientific explanation using a model or representation for the phenomenon.  
Articulate a statement that relates the given phenomenon to the relevant disciplinary core idea.

## Evidence

Identify and describe the evidence (e.g., from students' own investigations, observations, reading material, archived data, simulations) necessary for constructing an explanation.  
Use multiple valid and reliable sources.

## Reasoning

Use reasoning to logically connect the evidence to support an explanation for the phenomenon.  
Describe a chain of reasoning that includes the relevant crosscutting concept.  
Base reasoning on the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

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