

Start Strong Science Reporting Performance Level Descriptor

HS (High School) Some Support Needed Performance Descriptor

Students at this level demonstrated partial understanding of the High School scientific concepts and practices in the three tested content domains: Earth & Space, Life, and Physical Science.

Students at this level are typically able to:

- Ask questions to clarify a model, to determine qualitative relationships, or to counter arguments using data.
- Design and conduct investigations that test a model, identify constraints/variables, produce data, and identify hypotheses on how independent variables affect dependent variables.
- Organize/use/compare data sets and models, describe when to use qualitative versus quantitative data, apply mathematical concepts, use data and apply statistics to solve scientific problems.
- Use a model to predict relationships.
- Compare and communicate information from multiple sources.
- Identify main points of an argument, and defend a claim based on evidence.

Students at this level will likely need some support to learn more advanced concepts and be able to:

- Ask questions to revise/refine a model and determine quantitative relationships.
- Frame a hypothesis based on a model/theory, evaluate simple questions that challenge an argument, and plan an investigation to evaluate scientific phenomena.
- Develop simple models, revise various models, apply/analyze data and statistics, and apply/use mathematical representations to see if a model is viable or to decide if qualitative or quantitative data meet criteria for success.
- Make/revise claims, evaluate/defend a claim, choose between competing arguments, and integrate information from multiple sources.