

# How to write CER (Parent-friendly steps)

A guide to help your child master the Claim-Evidence-Reasoning framework for science assessments



## Step 1: Write the Claim (1 sentence)

- Start with a direct conclusion.
- Use the comparatives in the question as clues (e.g., "more", "less", "faster", "slower", "higher", "lower").

### Claim

- Yes/No
- Agree/Disagree
- Suggested change
- I think that...

## Step 2: Add Evidence (1–2 sentences)

**Evidence must come from the question stimulus.** This includes **data from tables, graphs, bar charts, diagrams** (and also observations or information stated in the scenario).

### Examples of what can count as Evidence

#### Table:

specific numbers / changes (e.g., "Temperature increased the most from 25°C to 35°C in 5 minutes.")

#### Graph / bar chart:

trends and comparisons (e.g., "\_\_\_\_\_ in Set-up A increased faster than \_\_\_\_\_ in Set-up B.")

#### Diagram:

visible labelled parts (e.g., "The leaf has stomata on the underside.")

#### Scenario text:

observations given (e.g., "Droplets formed on the outside of the can.")

### Rules for good Evidence

- Use **specific data** (trend, changes, comparisons).
- Use **key comparatives** that support your claim (increase, decrease, faster, slower, more, less etc.)



#### Helpful starters for Evidence


- "From the results in the table/graph/bar chart, \_\_\_\_ (compare MV) \_\_\_\_"
- "From the diagram, \_\_\_\_ (compare CV) \_\_\_\_"
- "When \_\_\_, the \_\_\_ increased/decreased ..."
- "Compared to \_\_\_, \_\_\_ is ..."

# Step 3: Add Reasoning (1–2 sentences)

Reasoning explains **why** the evidence supports the claim using a **Science idea**. This is where students show understanding.

## Rules for good Reasoning

- Choose the relevant Science concept.
- Tweak Science concept to explain clearly how the evidence supports the claim. Be mindful to use scientific terms/phrases.
- Avoid vague phrases like "it is better" without explaining what makes it better scientifically.

 **Helpful starters for Reasoning**

- "So, \_\_\_\_ (key science concept contextualised to evidence chosen) \_\_\_\_"
- "So, \_\_\_\_ (state its effect due to the cause highlighted in evidence, eg. change to a part which affects function) \_\_\_\_."

## Quick "Check" for parents (easy checklist)

A strong CER answer should have all 3:

**C:**  
Did he clearly state the conclusion?

**E:**  
Did he use the given information (including **data from tables/graphs/bar charts/diagrams**) and not just general knowledge?

**R:**  
Did he explain using a relevant Science concept that links E → C?

If one part is missing, the answer usually becomes unclear or incomplete.

If key scientific terms/phrases taught are not used accurately in R, the answer does not demonstrate understanding of scientific knowledge.