



WRITING A SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION

Scaffold the start. Grow the response.



THE IDEA

Write a scientific explanation that connects an observed result to a relevant mechanism.



IN THE CLASSROOM

Choose a phenomenon and the mechanism needed to explain it.

ACROSS SUBJECTS

Maths: explain why an operation preserves equality. Humanities: explain how a cause contributed to an outcome.

HOW TO USE IT

1



Write a scientific explanation that connects an observed result to a relevant mechanism.

2



Identify the mechanism that connects the cause to the result.

3



Build a cause → mechanism → consequence chain.

4



Write the explanation and reject a because ending that merely repeats the result.

WRITING A SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION

A trolley accelerates forwards because the forward force exceeds the opposing force, producing a forward resultant force. "It accelerates because it goes faster" does not explain the cause.



WHY IT WORKS

Makes the language choices of a response visible before independent writing.



EAL UPGRADE

Remove the arrow chain and ask for the mechanism in the learner's own wording.



TRY IT TOMORROW

Change one condition or evidence item and ask whether the proposed mechanism still supports the explanation.



TEACHER LANGUAGE

"What connects the cause to the result?"