

Using the Outcomes of an Investigation to Draw Conclusions

Each student made the connection that the science report was to write about things they learned in through the activity and they understood they needed to use the vocabulary. Several students made references to activities being fun and interesting as if they were writing a narrative about the activity. There were only a few examples from focal students where they made a clear connection in the writing between the evidence we used to get to a finding and the finding.

I believe students need much more practice being able to articulate how the outcomes of an activity provide the evidence for their conclusions. In one report the student was able to tell how many washers it took to break the force attracting two donut magnets. However she did not include with any clarity that the conclusion of the test was as the magnets were moved further apart it took less washers to break the force. Therefore, I could see these students needed more explicit teaching in how to get evidence from the activity and use it to make a distinct conclusion or a scientific generalization.