

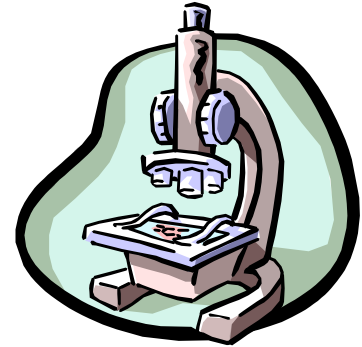
AN ESSAY RESPONSE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

“A Journey Into the Scientific Method” AND “The Baloney Detection Kit”

Writing Prompt: In a well-developed, five-paragraph essay, use the two articles, “A Journey Into the Scientific Method” and “The Baloney Detection Kit”, to explain the importance of using the scientific method.

Preparation:

- Read the articles. Clarify anything that you do not understand.
- Create an outline of each article.
- Answer the set of questions for each article.



Suggested Structure

Introduction

Begin by gaining the reader’s attention. Here are some suggestions:

- Relate your own experience where applying the scientific method helped or *would have* helped. (“I remember, as a child, the disappointment that came over me as I slipped on the pair of X-ray glasses I had purchased from the back of my Superman comic book.”)
- Ask an interesting question that will lead into your topic. (“Tired of spending your paycheck on advice from Miss Cleo?” or “Tired of spending money on products that make outrageous claims and never seem to work?”)
- Quote someone regarding science, facts, evidence, or the scientific method. (“I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.” – Thomas Edison *or* “Research is what I’m doing when I don’t know what I’m doing.” – Werner Von Bron)

Link your attention-getter to a few sentences about what the scientific method is (a step-by-step approach to solving problems; Observations are made, experiments designed, evidence gathered, and conclusions are made; experimental variables, controls are set, etc.) and how it relates to your attention-getter. Stress the importance of using this problem-solving tool in science and everyday life.

Body

Write a paragraph summarizing what pseudoscience is and the danger of not using the scientific method. Give an example from the “Baloney Detection Kit” article and explain why the example does not belong in the realm of science.

Write a paragraph summarizing the observations the scientists made in “A Journey Into the Scientific Method”, and how the scientists used the scientific method to determine what the butterflies were gathering for.

Write a paragraph explaining how the scientific method will prevent people from falling for a particular pseudoscience, trick, or scam. Use your own example or choose from some examples discussed in class or seen in videos (psychics, horoscopes, palm reading, psychic surgery, crop-circles, charged water, etc.)

Closing

Begin the final paragraph by restating the importance of the scientific method. Summarize the significance of the other paragraphs in another few sentences. Try to tie you final sentence in to your original attention-getter or state some personal conclusion about the scientific method.