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| **Component** | **Not Evident** | **Level 1: Beginning** | **Level 2: Developing** | **Level 3: Advancing** | **Level 4: Proficient** |
| **Claim** | Does not make a claim | Claim does not answer the question (i.e., describe the relationship between the 2 variables) | Claim does answer the question but it is inaccurate. | Claim answers the question, and is accurate, but is incomplete | Claim answers the question, is accurate, and is complete. Completely describes the trend in the relationship between the IV and DV where appropriate. |
| **Evidence** | Does not provide evidence | Only provides inappropriate evidence (evidence does not support the claim) | Provides appropriate, but insufficient evidence to support the claim. May include some inappropriate evidence | Provides appropriate and sufficient evidence to support the claim. May include some inappropriate evidence. | Provides appropriate and sufficient evidence to support the claim  |
| **Reasoning: Science Concepts** | Does not include reasoning | Restates evidence and does not include explanation of science concepts | Includes explanation of science concepts but all are inappropriate concepts that do not link evidence to claim | Includes explanation of some science concepts that link evidence to the claim, but are insufficient (one or more concepts that should have been included are not included) or some are inappropriate | Includes explanation of science concepts that link evidence to the claim (concepts are appropriate), and they are sufficient (no omission of key science concepts) and are clearly stated and accurate.  |
| **Reasoning: Logic** | Does not include reasoning | Restates evidence or claim and does not include a logic statement that links the evidence to the claim | Attempts to include a logic statement that links the evidence to the claim but does not adequately link the evidence to the claim. | Includes a logic statement that attempts to link the evidence with the claim but needs to be more clearly stated to demonstrate logical reasoning | Includes a logic statement that links the evidence to the claim (including words such as ‘because…’ ‘therefore…’) that clearly demonstrates logical reasoning  |