

Exercise 6. Claims & Evidence in Watson & Crick (1953)



Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions:

First, set your pen or pencil down and read through the entire paper on the structure of DNA by Watson & Crick (obtain at <http://www.nature.com/nature/dna50/watsoncrick.pdf>).

Next, read a second time and

- Underline the research problem.
- Underline the research question or hypothesis.
- Place a star (★) at the beginning of the review of the literature.
- Place a double vertical line (||) along the paragraph(s) used for methods.
- Place a dagger (†) in the margin next to claims.
- Place a double-dagger (‡) in the margin next to evidence
- Place a “C” in the margin next to conclusions.

Finally, use the marked copy of the paper to answer the questions below.

1. How do the authors specifically identify the research problem? Can you restate it in your words?

2. How have the authors characterized the problem regarding the structure of DNA, i.e., as a disciplinary problem, as a speculative (results of research) problem, or both? Explain.

3. What method(s) do Watson & Crick include in this article that produce data to help them answer their questions?

4. What method(s) do Watson & Crick use to address the research problem?

5. Do Watson & Crick use their assumptions as claims, evidence, or conclusions?

6. What do Watson & Crick use as evidence to support their claims?

7. What pattern in the writing emerges as the authors move to their conclusions?

8. Is the citation style Chicago I (bibliographic) or Chicago II (author-date reference)?

