Year 8 Science

**The Issue of Fluoridating our Water**

**Task Brief:**

Your task is become informed on the fluoridation of water debate. You will then compose a letter to the SA Government arguing either **for** or **against** the fluoridation of water in South Australia. In your letter you need to justify your position and use scientific facts and reasons as much as possible.

**Step 1: Watch the ABC Catalyst Video on the Issue as a Class**

**ABC Catalyst Video**

<http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/3821248.htm>

*\*\*\*****Editor's note****: The broadcast incorrectly states that Townsville is “the only place in all of Qld that had fluoridated water”. However, Townsville, Bamaga, Dalby, Mareeba and Moranbah councils provide water fluoridation.\*\*\**

*The Video is also on Haiku – 8 Science/Chemistry/Fluoridation.*

**Step 2: Class Discussion**

* Bias here? *(ie. is one view presented above another because of who made the video?)*
* What is the science data to support doing it?
* What is the science data to oppose doing it?
* What **further questions** could be asked and researched?

**Step 3: Research and Take a Position with Critical Thinking**

Your task is to complete further **research** on the issue of mandatory water fluoridation, which you will use to write a letter to the Government of SA with your recommendation regarding this issue. *\*Find your local MP and address to them (search online for who yours is).*

As a starting point, see ‘Further Research Websites’ list on the next page.

**Step 4: Write your Letter to SA Government Local MP**

Your letter must include

* An introduction to yourself (30 words)
* a clear **explanation** of the scientific evidence that supports your position on this issue. (200 words)
* **Justify** your position with **references** to various sources and the facts from those sources. *\*note you do not need a reference list but do refer specifically to your sources of information in your letter.*

Do a **draft** version and get a peer to read and review!

* demonstrate your ability to critically and insightfully **evaluate** the claims on this issue and refer to science knowledge on the topic.

(250 words)

* **LENGTH – 400 - 500 Words**

**Assessment Criteria**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | A | B | C | D | E |
| HE2 | Clear and well considered explanation of how evidence has led to an improved understanding of a scientific idea | A thought out explanation of how evidence has led to an improved understanding of a scientific idea | An explanation of role of evidence in the development of a scientific idea | Some statements about the application of science knowledge to real-world and/or contemporary problems | Little or no reference to the use of science relating to real world problems |
| IS8 | Critical and insightful evaluation of claims in secondary sources with logical links to science knowledge | Logical evaluation of claims in secondary sources with clear reference to science knowledge | Evaluation of claims in secondary sources with some level of scientific understanding | Identifies claims made by others | Identifies secondary sources |

**Further Research Websites:**

**National Health and Medical Research Council**

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/attachments/water-fluoridationqa.pdf>

* Pdf document – lots of great information here (read through)

**SA Health Website**

<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/public+health/water+quality/fluoride+in+water>

* Look around website for links and further information

**University of Adelaide – information pamphlet**

<https://health.adelaide.edu.au/arcpoh/dperu/ua/media/482/pamphlet-water-fluoridation.pdf>

**Wikipedia – Fluoridation in Australia**

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_fluoridation_in_Australia>

**Australian Dental Journal Article**

<https://fluoridealert.org/wp-content/uploads/do-2020.australia.guidelines.pdf>

**Mark Aldridge Website**

<http://www.markmaldridge.com/FLUORIDE-THE-SIMPLE-TRUTH.html>

**National Museum Australia**

<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/introduction-of-fluoride>

**Fluoride Alert Organization**

<https://fluoridealert.org/articles/50-reasons/>

**Truth About Fluoride – lots of links/info**

<http://www.nofluoride.com>