

Fluoridation of Water?

You Decide!

Year 8 Science

A Science Based Argument to Your Local MP



Marksheet
Year 8 Science Australian Curriculum

Name: _____

Date: _____

Assessment Description:

5 = Well Above

4 = Above standard

3 = At standard

2 = Below standard

1 = Well below standard

Fluoridation of Water Letter

Achievement Standard		Achievement					Comments
		1	2	3	4	5	
HE2	explain how evidence has led to an improved understanding of a scientific idea						
IS7	apply scientific knowledge and investigation findings to evaluate claims made by others						
IS8	use appropriate language and representations to communicate science ideas, methods and findings in a range of text types						

Overall comments:

Assessment Grade:
(on balance)

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 (min50 words)
- a clear **explanation** of the scientific evidence that supports your position on this issue. (min 300 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.*
- demonstrate your ability to critically and insightfully **evaluate** the claims on this issue and refer to science knowledge on the topic. (min 400 words)

• **LENGTH – MAX 1 PAGE, size 11 font.**

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



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.markaldrige.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>