

Claim-Evidence-Reasoning Example: Fast Plants

Claim	Evidence	Reasoning
Plants need light energy to produce healthy leaves.	Fast Plants growing in light have darker, larger leaves than those grown in the dark	The lighter, smaller leaves on the plants grown in the dark look sick compared to the large, dark leaves on the plants grown in the light. It looks like not having light made a big difference in the health of the plants and their ability to grow.
Plants need light energy to grow and develop into healthy plants.	Fast Plants growing in the dark grew longer, thinner stems than those in the light and could not hold themselves upright. Some plants in the dark are starting to die.	Even though the plants grown in the dark are actually taller than those in the light, their stems do not work right; the plants cannot stand up; they are not growing and developing like healthy plants do.
Fast Plant seeds do not need light to germinate.	Most all of the Fast Plant seeds that we planted, in the light and in the dark, grew into plants.	If Fast Plant seeds needed light to germinate, then the columns in the dark would have no plants in them.
Other plants need light just like Fast Plants need light.	Fast Plants are a member of a large family of plants called Brassicas.	We are using Fast Plants as a model for all plants because it grows quickly and easily in our classroom, and it is a member of the plant kingdom with the same or similar characteristics as other plants. We used a light bulb as a model for the sun because we could control the amount of light that way and its energy is like what a plant in sunlight would receive.
<p>Explanation Plants, like Wisconsin Fast Plants, need light energy to grow healthy leaves and stems and develop into plants that will be strong and survive. Without light, seeds can germinate and seedlings can begin to grow, but they begin to get sickly and die after approximately a week without light.</p>		

Note: This example is based on the [Reading Green Science Notebook](#), a tool included in the Wisconsin Fast Plants Program Library.