

GRADE 8 SCIENCE TASK # 1

After reading Colonization of the Planet Mars about 5 Hurdles to Conquer Before Colonizing Mars, write an essay that argues your position on whether colonization is possible on the planet Mars. Support your claim/position with evidence from your readings. Be sure to acknowledge competing views. Give examples from the text and previous readings to support and clarify your claim.

5 Hurdles to Conquer Before Colonizing Mars = Lexile level 1200L

Colonization of the Planet Mars = Lexile level = 1060

SCIENCE TASK RUBRIC

Argumentative Writing

	4	3	2	1
Statement of Claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claim is clearly stated, focused, and strongly maintained Alternate opposing claim(s) is clearly addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claim is clear and for the most part maintained, though some loosely related material may be present Opposing claim(s) is addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claim is focused but it is insufficiently sustained Opposing claim(s) is vague 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claim is confusing and/or ambiguous No opposing views
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end Effective introduction and conclusion for audience and purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end Adequate introduction and conclusion for audience and purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end Introduction and conclusion, if present, are weak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No logical organization Frequent extraneous ideas may intrude
Elaboration of Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of evidence from source is smoothly integrated, relevant and concrete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some evidence from source is integrated but citations are general 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence from source is weakly integrated, citations, if present, are uneven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of evidence from source is absent
Language and Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of academic vocabulary and domain-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of domain-specific vocabulary is generally appropriate for the audience and purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of domain-specific vocabulary may at times be inappropriate for the audience and purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses limited language or domain specific vocabulary Has little sense of audience and purpose

