



GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Department of Education

Evaluation, Testing, and Certification Division

Evaluating Science Communication Skills

Exercising scientific literacy demonstrates the ability to understand the nature of science as opposed to just knowing content. The effective use of science communication skills is one way to measure scientific literacy. These skills include those processes by which information is expressed using appropriate scientific conventions and conventions of the English language. A successful science student should be able to demonstrate scientific literacy through the proper use of these conventions.

Scientific Conventions

Science students should be able to communicate results according to accepted scientific principles. Students should present scientific information through the proper use of significant figures, formulae, units, and data (graphs, diagrams, or tables). Appendix D outlines the standard scientific conventions used by the Department of Education of Newfoundland and Labrador in provincial examinations for science.

Conventions of the English Language

Science students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of scientific concepts and issues by using appropriate conventions of English language when explaining a solution to a problem. These are normally assessed in constructed response questions that require a solution written in essay form. Accepted conventions of English language include such things as spelling, punctuation, and grammar. The proper use of these conventions ensures that a solution is very readable, and easily understood. It also ensures that student responses are clearly presented in a well-organized manner. Although, it may be difficult to evaluate these conventions separately in a summative provincial examination, the proper use of these conventions will positively affect student results.