

IS THE HOUSE HAUNTED CSI INVESTIGATION

CER Practice

CER CLAIM
EVIDENCE
REASONING

FORENSIC CRIME SCENE • LOW PREP • DIGITAL & PRINT

Grades 6-8

Personal Profile

Witness Report

Evidence Report

Crime Scene

Case of the Haunted House

Analyze Evidence • Write a Claim • Solve the Case

Scroll Through

To take a peek inside!

Help students analyze data, pull out key details from passages, and then share their findings in a CER.

Resource *includes*

- ✓ Teacher presentation
- ✓ Student journal
- ✓ Paranormal investigator reports
- ✓ Newspaper clippings
- ✓ writing template
- ✓ Grading rubric
- ✓ Sentence starters and student self-assessment checklist

IS THE HOUSE HAUNTED?

CER Practice

Personal Profile

Role at the Ravenwood Inn Original owner. He built the house in 1878 and lived in it until his death.

Connection to the case: Died in Room 5 in 1912, which started the ghost story.

Descriptors: dark suit, high

Person of Interest

Where were they during each of the five sightings?

Not applicable. He died in 1912.

Access to the property?

Not applicable. He died in 1912.

Other key information?

The county record for his death in 1912 notes the room disarranged and lists no... called in for questioning and no charges were brought. The suspicion never went away. Ambrose's own death notice in 1971 records that about it fifty-nine years later. See the newspaper archive.

Incident Report

I-R5-26

D. Marchetti, Lead Investigator

Date: Monday 10/12/26

Time: 3:30 pm

Ravenwood Inn, 112 Ravenwood Road, Hollis Falls

MAP

down - elevations in feet above sea level

to Cedar House Inn 2 miles east

421 ft

431 ft

WOOD ROAD

WOOD INN

wood Road

402 ft

25 ft above first floor

shed

Room 5 above (third floor, northeast corner)

THIRD FLOOR PLAN

The Ravenwood Inn - third floor

two north-facing windows

ROOM 4

ROOM 5 northeast corner

HALLWAY

ROOM 6

GUEST STAIR down to second floor

OWNER'S QUARTERS

ATTIC STAIR

ATTIC ABOVE THIS ENTIRE FLOOR

0 60 ft

0 20 ft

wood Inn, prepared from the county property record and the building plan held by the... the attic runs above the third floor.

DO YOUR STUDENTS STRUGGLE WITH



Interpreting data



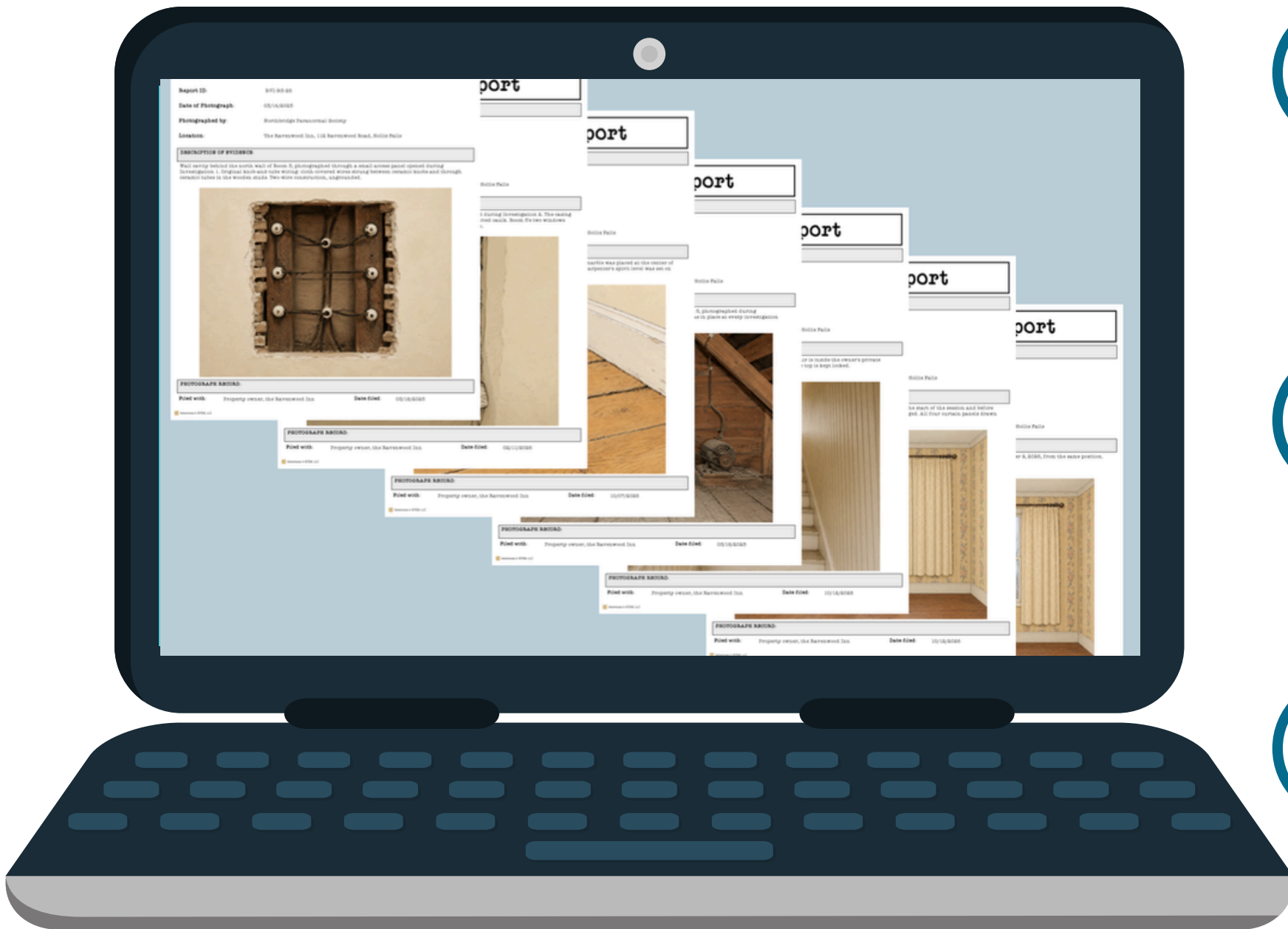
**Finding the key details
in passages**



**Using evidence to
support a claim**



**Using reasoning to link
the evidence to the
claim**



I've Got You Covered

- ✓ Engaging lesson where the students become detectives
- ✓ Data tables to interpret
- ✓ Paranormal investigator reports for students to pull out key details
- ✓ Journal to help students record their observations
- ✓ Sentence support to help them write their CER



What a teacher has said about another CSI investigation: "This activity was a great way to work on CER without being too "science-y." I teach 9th grade instructional biology and this was just the right amount of science and writing. My students lose interest very quickly and solving the mystery kept them guessing. After every piece of evidence, they were were trying to figure out how he died.

Great resource!- Carolynn

IS THE HOUSE HAUNTED? CSI INVESTIGATION CER Practice

The image shows three overlapping forms and a newspaper clipping. The top form is an 'Incident Report' with fields for Report ID (RVI-RS-26), Date (Monday 10/12/26), Reported by (D. Marchetti, Lead Investigator), Time (3:30 pm), and Location (The Ravenwood Inn, 112 Ravenwood Road, Hollis Falls). Below it is a photograph of a house. The middle form is an 'Evidence Report' with fields for Item No. (ARC-03), Report ID (RVI-RS-26), Date of Collection (10/09/2026), Collected by (Ridgeline Paranormal Research Society), and Location (Hollis Falls Public Library, local history room). It also has a 'DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE' section. The bottom form is a newspaper clipping from 'THE HOLLIS FALLS REGISTER' dated May 16, 2024, titled 'RAVENWOOD HOUSE TO OPEN AS INN'. The clipping describes the house's history and its upcoming opening as a bed and breakfast. The bottom right form is another 'Evidence Report' with fields for Item No. (Item #A3), Report ID (RVI-RS-26), Date of Photograph (10/09/2026), Photographed by (Ashgrove Anomalous Research), and Location (The Ravenwood Inn, 112 Ravenwood Road, Hollis Falls). It also has a 'DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE' section and a photograph of a yellow level on a wooden floor. The bottom right form also has a 'PH RECORD' section with fields for Property owner (the Ravenwood Inn) and Date filed (10/07/2026).

Incident Report

Report ID : RVI-RS-26 Date: Monday 10/12/26
Reported by: D. Marchetti, Lead Investigator Time: 3:30 pm
Location: The Ravenwood Inn, 112 Ravenwood Road, Hollis Falls

Photographs

Evidence Report

DETAILED REPORT:

Item No. : ARC-03
Report ID: RVI-RS-26
Date of Collection: 10/09/2026
Collected by: Ridgeline Paranormal Research Society
Location: Hollis Falls Public Library, local history room

DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE:

The Hollis Falls Register, May 16, 2024. Reproduced from the newspaper's online archive. One of three items concerning the house at 112 Ravenwood Road.

THE HOLLIS FALLS REGISTER
MAY 16, 2024

RAVENWOOD HOUSE TO OPEN AS INN

The Ravenwood house, empty for more than fifty years, has been bought by Grant Mercer, who will open it this autumn as a bed and breakfast. Mr. Mercer says he was drawn to the property by its history.

Evidence Report

DETAILED REPORT:

Item No. : Item #A3
Report ID: RVI-RS-26
Date of Photograph: 10/09/2026
Photographed by: Ashgrove Anomalous Research
Location: The Ravenwood Inn, 112 Ravenwood Road, Hollis Falls

DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE:

Trigger-object test in Room 3, photographed during Investigation 3. A glass marble was placed at the center of the floor and came to rest against the baseboard in the northeast corner. A carpenter's spirit level was set on the floorboards beside it and is visible in the frame.

PH RECORD:

Property owner, the Ravenwood Inn Date filed: 10/07/2026

What Are *students* Doing?

- ✓ Reading paranormal reports
- ✓ Analyzing and interpreting data from the investigations

EMF, Infrasound, temperatures

- ✓ Organizing their thoughts
- ✓ Answering the question as to what happened using claim, evidence, reasoning

Introduce the Case and have students go through the Incident report



Student journal



Incident reports

Journal

Reports

The image illustrates a workflow for incident reporting. On the left, a laptop screen shows a digital version of an incident report form, which includes fields for location, date, time, and a list of evidence collected. In the center, a physical incident report form is shown, featuring a photograph of a room and a floor plan. On the right, an investigation notebook is open, with sections for 'Incident Report' and 'Photograph', and a large area for 'Key observations from the photographs:'.

Incident Report

Report ID : RVI-R5-26

Date: Monday 10/12/26

Reported by: D. Marchetti, Lead Investigator

Time: 3:30 pm

Location: The Ravenwood Inn, 112 Ravenwood Road, Hollis Falls

Investigation Notebook

Key information from the incident report:

Incident Report

Photograph

Key observations from the photographs:

Next, have them look at the different profiles of the people of interest

The image displays four overlapping character profile cards from the game "Adventures in STEM, LLC". Each card has a red border and contains a portrait of the character at the top left. The profiles are as follows:

- Grant Mercer:** A man with a beard wearing a green vest over a plaid shirt. His role is "Groundskeeper" at the Ravenwood Inn. He was seen clearing a north gutter and re-staking a fence before October 2.
- Elias "Eli" Boone:** An older man with a cap and jacket. He is a "Guest" at the inn. He was seen re-hanging a storm door on October 2 and working on the grounds on October 3.
- Marisol Reyes:** A woman with dark hair wearing a white apron over a blue shirt. She is a "Housekeeper" at the inn. She was completing a room turnover on October 2 and doing extra work on October 5.
- Josiah Ravenwood:** An older man with a mustache in a suit. He is the "Original owner" of the inn. He died in 1912.
- Vivian Cross:** An older woman with grey hair wearing a brown jacket and scarf. She owns a competing inn two miles down the road. She has lived in Hollis Falls her whole life and believes the house is haunted.

Each card also includes sections for "Where were they during each of the five sightings?", "Access to the property?", and "Other key information?".

Then, have them review the various paranormal investigation reports and news reports

Evidence Report

DETAILED REPORT:

Item No. :

INV-01

Report ID:

RVI-R5-26

Date of Investigation:

Friday, March 14, 2025

Conducted by:

Northbridge Paranormal Society - J. Vance, lead

Location:

112 Ravenwood Road,
Hollis Falls

DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE:

Overnight investigation of Room 5 carried out at the owner's invitation. Instrument readings, trigger-object test run, photographs taken.

Measurement	
EMF, Room 5 north wall	
EMF, rest of Room 5 and third-floor hallway	
Room temperature	
North wall surface temperature	
Infrasound, Room 5	
Trigger object	
Time to corner	
Shadow on south wall	
Curtain movement	

FIELD NOTES:

The team arrived at 7:00 pm and worked in Room 5 until 2:00 am. Windows were closed and the door was kept shut except when team members entered or left.

Elevated electromagnetic readings were recorded along the north wall and held steady elsewhere in the room, in the hallway and on the stairs stayed below 0.5 mG. A shadow on the south wall to check the cavity and the wiring inside was photographed. The readings for the most part were logged as ordinary.

A cold area was recorded at the base of the north wall beneath the windows, my hand felt the cold. It did not move during the session. The window casings above it held steady.

A glass marble was placed at the center of the floor as a trigger object. It rolled against the baseboard. The test was run once. The floor is out of level and dropped slightly.

A low-frequency tone was detected at 19.0 Hz. The team walked the attic and basement. The tone matches the fan and is logged as ordinary.

A shadow crossing the south wall was reported three times after dark by team members. It came around the climb in the road below the north windows. No apparition was observed or reported at any point during the session.

DETAILED REPORT:

Item No. :

Report ID:

Date of Investigation:

Conducted by:

Location:

DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE:

Overnight investigation of Room 5 carried out at the owner's invitation. Instrument readings, trigger-object test run, photographs taken.

Measurement	
EMF, Room 5 north wall	
EMF, rest of Room 5 and third-floor hallway	
Room temperature	
North wall surface temperature	
Infrasound, Room 5	
Trigger object	
Time to corner	
Shadow on south wall	
Curtain movement	

FIELD NOTES:

The team arrived at 6:30 pm and worked in Room 5 until 2:00 am. Windows were closed and the door was kept shut except when team members entered or left.

Elevated electromagnetic readings were recorded along the north wall and held steady elsewhere in the room, in the hallway and on the stairs stayed below 0.5 mG. A shadow on the south wall to check the cavity and the wiring inside was photographed. The readings for the most part were logged as ordinary.

A cold area was recorded at the base of the north wall beneath the windows, my hand felt the cold. It did not move during the session. The window casings above it held steady.

A glass marble was placed at the center of the floor as a trigger object. It rolled against the baseboard. The test was run once. The floor is out of level and dropped slightly.

A low-frequency tone was detected at 19.0 Hz. The team walked the attic and basement. The tone matches the fan and is logged as ordinary.

A shadow crossing the south wall was reported three times after dark by team members. It came around the climb in the road below the north windows. No apparition was observed or reported at any point during the session.

Evidence Report		
DETAILED REPORT:		
Item No. :	INV-02	
Report ID:	RVI-RS-26	
Date of Investigation:	Saturday, February 7, 2026	
Conducted by:	Hollis Falls Ghost Research Group - S. Okafor, lead investigator	
Location:	112 Ravenwood Road, Hollis Falls	
DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE:		
Overnight investigation of Room 5 carried out at the owner's invitation. Instrument readings recorded, trigger-object test run, photographs taken.		
Measurement	Reading	Notes
EMF, Room 5 north wall	6.4 mG	
EMF, rest of Room 5 and third-floor hallway	0.4 mG	
Room temperature	67 °F	
North wall surface temperature	56 °F	
Infrasound, Room 5	18.9 Hz	
Trigger object		Rolled to the northeast corner
Time to corner		15 seconds
Shadow on south wall		Observed after dark
Curtain movement		None reported
FIELD NOTES:		
The team arrived at 6:30 pm and worked in Room 5 until 1:30 am. Windows were closed and latched for the duration of the session. The door was kept shut except when team members entered or left.		
Elevated electromagnetic readings were recorded along the north wall and held steady through the night elsewhere in the room, in the hallway and on the stairs stayed below 0.5 mG. The readings follow the line of the floor joists and are logged as ordinary.		
A cold area was recorded at the base of the north wall beneath the windows, measuring eleven degrees below ambient temperature. It did not move during the session. The team examined the window frames and photographed the bottom corner of the west of the two north windows. The casing has separated from the frame. The corner is as ordinary.		
A glass marble was placed at the center of the floor as a trigger object. It rolled to the northeast corner and against the baseboard. The test was run once. The floor is out of level and drops toward that corner.		
A low-frequency tone was detected at 18.9 Hz. It matches the exhaust fan in the attic gable wall and is likely from the furnace.		
A shadow crossing the south wall was reported twice after dark by team members in the room. Each time it came around the climb in the road below the north windows. No apparition was seen or recorded. No more than curtains swayed or repeated itself.		

Evidence Report

DETAILED REPORT:

Item No. :

Report ID:

Date of Investigation:

Conducted by:

Location:

INV-03

RVI-R5-26

Monday, October 5, 2026

Ashgrove Anomalous Research - A. Pruitt, lead investigator

112 Ravenwood Road,
Hollis Falls

DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE:

Evening investigation of Room 5 carried out at the owner's invitation following reports of curtain readings recorded at fixed points, one trigger-object test run, photographs taken.

Measurement	
EMF, Room 5 north wall	
EMF, rest of Room 5 and third-floor hallway	
Room temperature	
North wall surface temperature	
Infrasound, Room 5	
Trigger object	
Time to corner	
Shadow on south wall	
Curtain movement	

FIELD NOTES:

The team set up on the ground floor in the afternoon and worked in Room 5 from 7:00 pm and latched for the full session and the door kept shut. Both curtain panels on both windows photographed at 7:10 pm before instruments were placed.

Elevated readings were recorded along the north wall and held steady. Readings elsewhere eleven degrees below room temperature was recorded at the base of the north wall, marble placed at the center of the floor rolled to the northeast corner, a carpenter's level photographed, and the floor is out of level toward that corner. A 191 Hz tone was detected shadow crossing the south wall was reported three times after dark, each time as a curtain. The north wall readings follow the old wiring. All four are logged as ordinary.

At 9:52 pm the left-hand curtain panel on the east of the two north windows was observed of the wall and remain in the displaced position. Two team members were in the room checked immediately and found closed with both brass sash latches engaged. The curtain again.

Statement taken on arrival from the housekeeper, M. Reyes: "I was in there this afternoon at 1:00 pm. Broad daylight, I was on my own, and the curtain pulled back the

The image is a composite of three elements. At the top is a 'Detailed Report' form with the following fields:

- Item No.:** ARC-01
- Report ID:** RVI-RS-26
- Date of Collection:** 10/09/2026
- Collected by:** Ridgeline Paranormal Research Society
- Location:** Hollis Falls Public Library, local history room

Below the form is a 'Description of Evidence' section containing the text: 'The Hollis Falls Register, November 14, 1912. Reproduced from the bound volumes held in the local history room concerning the house at 112 Ravenwood Road.'

In the center is a newspaper clipping from 'THE HOLLIS FALLS REGISTER' dated 'NOVEMBER 14, 1912'. The headline reads 'RAVENWOOD FOUND DEAD'. The article text is: 'Josiah Ravenwood, 67, builder of the house at 112 Ravenwood Road, was found dead Thursday in the upper room of his home. The county officer searched the room disarranged but records no cause of death. His son, Ambrose, was called in for questioning. No charges have been brought.'

At the bottom right is another newspaper clipping, partially visible, with the headline 'AM...' and text: 'Ambrose Ravenwood, physics teacher, caused the father's death. Provoked state...'

A large red arrow points from the newspaper clipping at the bottom right towards the 'Detailed Report' form at the top, indicating the source of the evidence.

Evidence Report

DETAILED REPORT:

Item No. :	ARC-02
Report ID:	RVI-RS-26
Date of Collection:	10/09/2026
Collected by:	Ridgeline Paranormal Research Society
Location:	Hollis Falls Public Library, local history room

DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE:

The Hollis Falls Register, March 8, 1971. Reproduced from the bound volumes held in the local history room. One of three items concerning the house at 112 Ravenwood Road.

THE HOLLIS FALLS REGISTER
MARCH 8, 1971

AMBROSE RAVENWOOD, 86

Ambrose Ravenwood died at his home on Ravenwood Road on Monday, aged 86. His physician reports he died in his sleep of natural causes. He lived his whole life in the house his father built. Some in Hollis Falls never stopped wondering whether he had a hand in his father's death there in 1912, though nothing was ever proved. The property passes to relatives out of state.

Students will put all of their findings and state what happened using a claim, evidence, reasoning paragraph

Investigation Notebook

Person of Interest:

Role at the Ravenwood Inn:

Connection to the case:

Access to the property:

Where they were during each sighting:

Other key information:

Personal Profiles

Investigation Notebook

Person of Interest:

Role at the Ravenwood Inn:

Connection to the case:

Access to the property:

Where they were during each sighting:

Other key information:

Personal Profiles

Investigation Notebook

Investigation 1 analysis

Investigation 2 analysis

Investigation 3 analysis

Investigation 4 analysis

Evidence Reports

Investigation Notebook

Newspaper archive analysis

Housekeeper's log analysis

Attic walkthrough note analysis

Room 5 photographs analysis

Evidence Reports

Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning

Claim

The claim answers the question. It states what you think. It is written in a scientific sentence using academic language. There should be no "I" in the statement.

Some sentence frames to help you write your claim statement

- The Ravenwood Inn is / is not haunted.
- The activity in Room 5 is / is not caused by paranormal activity.

Evidence

The evidence is the actual observations and data from the case file.

Some sentence frames to help you write your evidence statements

- The data showed _____.
- According to the _____ report, _____.
- In the photograph of _____, _____.
- It was discovered that _____.
- Furthermore, ...
- Additionally, ...

Reasoning

The reasoning explains why the evidence supports the claim. It uses knowledge that is already known from science class and real world knowledge to link the evidence to the claim.

Some sentence frames to help you write your reasoning statement

- This indicates _____.
- This supports the claim because _____.
- This is important because _____.
- This suggests that _____.
- I know _____.
- Therefore, I can conclude _____.

Adventures in STEM, LLC

HOW TO USE THE RESOURCE IN

3 *simple steps*

1

Print the PDF version, make copies, and hand out to students

2

Use the digital version by clicking the titles in the RED BOX to make your own copy (found at the end of the PDF)

3

Share the resource with your students using your favorite LMS (Google Classroom, Powerschool (schoolology), Canva...)

Student CER self-assessment

Claim ☐ Includes the keywords from the question ☐ States the answer to the question
Evidence ☐ States where the information comes from (i.e. according to the data, during the experiment..) ☐ Includes observations found in the data table, graph, diagram, reports ☐ Includes actual numbers when appropriate
Reasoning ☐ Explains how the evidence supports the claim ☐ States why the evidence is important ☐ Includes a concluding sentence
Mechanics ☐ No spelling errors ☐ No grammar errors ☐ Easy to read ☐ Includes transition words or sentences

Adventures in STEM, LLC

CSI INVESTIGATION

CER Practice

Student CER self-assessment

Claim

☐ Includes the keywords from the question

☐ States the answer to the question

Evidence

SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION

Grading Rubric

	4	3	2	1	0
Claim	Claim is clear, answers the question, and is supported by evidence.	Claim answers the question, and is supported by evidence.	Claim is clear, answers the question, but is not supported by evidence.	Claim answers the question, but is not supported by evidence.	No claim is stated.
Evidence	Provides appropriate and sufficient evidence that includes measurements or observations that have been analyzed and interpreted to support the claim.	Provides appropriate and sufficient evidence to support the claim.	Provides appropriate but insufficient evidence to support the claim or also includes inappropriate evidence.	Provides inappropriate evidence that does not support the claim.	No evidence is given to support the claim.
Reasoning	Explains correctly, using scientific principles, why the evidence is included and how it supports the claim.	Explains correctly why the evidence is included or how it supports the claim, but both are missing.	Explains why the evidence is included or how it supports the claim, but one is missing.	Explains why the evidence is included or how it supports the claim, but one is missing.	No reasoning is given.
Mechanics	The writing is easy to follow, using academic language and details. Contains no grammar or spelling errors.	The writing is easy to follow, using academic language and details. Contains a few grammar or spelling errors.	The writing is easy to follow, using academic language and details. Contains a few grammar or spelling errors.	The writing is easy to follow, using academic language and details. Contains a few grammar or spelling errors.	The writing is difficult to follow, using informal language and details. Contains many grammar or spelling errors.

Comments:

Check out what teachers just like you have said about products like this:



I have to give my students multiple opportunities to write argument essays over the school year. I always love having new ways to explain this process. This was a fun activity that really helped my students understand what to do. – Megan

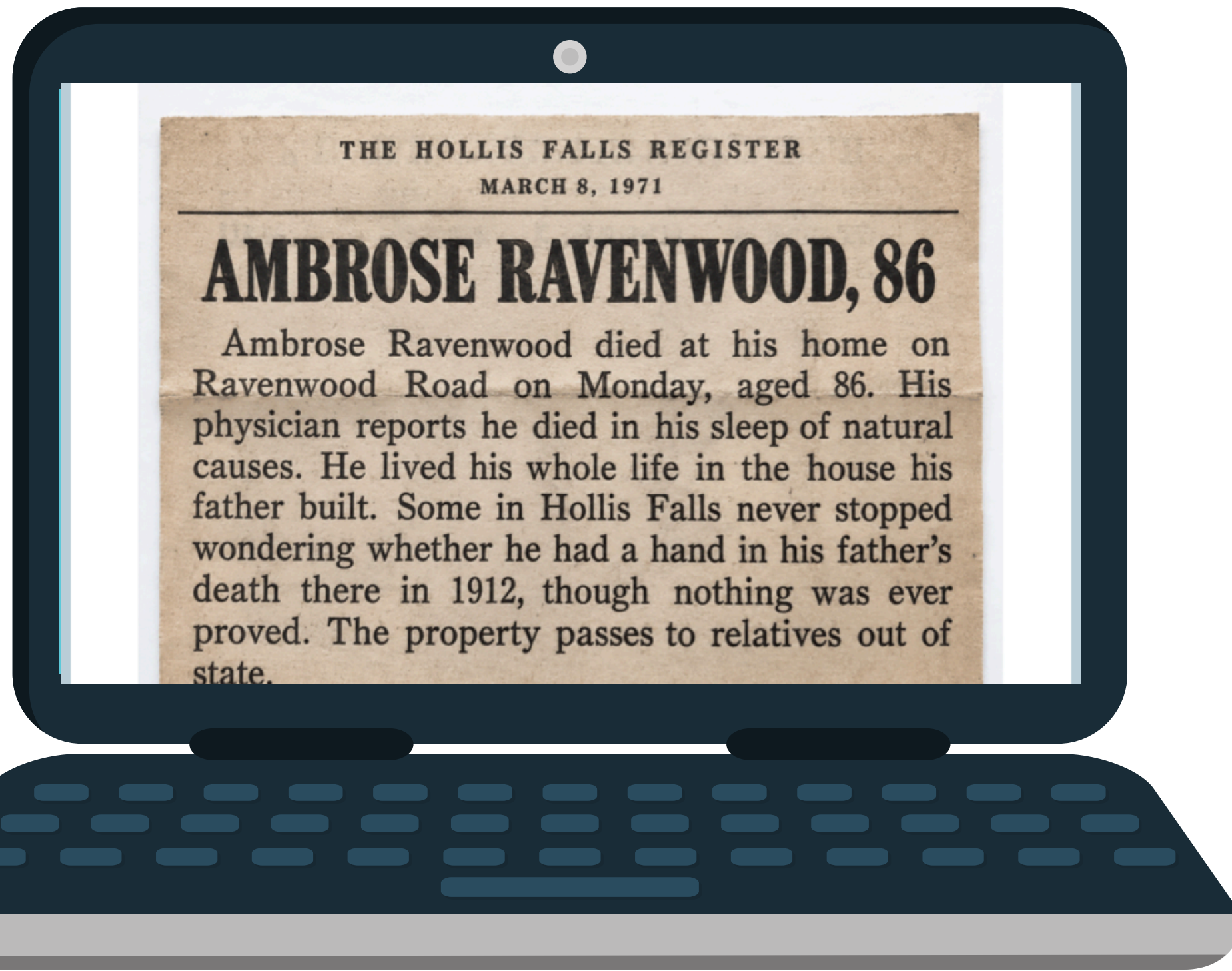


This was a fantastic way of reviewing CER with my students! They were engaged from the get-go! This year, my students are all about crimes and solving mysteries. This resource allowed them to get into the crime and use their CER skills to determine who might have committed the crime. I kept it open-ended, if they had solid evidence to prove someone's guilt, then they got the points. I was amazed at how creative they got with the evidence, and how invested they were in solving the crime! Thank you so much for creating this resource, it was amazing!- Heather



My students loved this activity so much! They were so into solving the "crime" that they didn't even realize the work at they were putting in! An excellent way for them to practice CER in little steps and then allow them to put it all together! – Brea

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