

critical links: A professional inquiry process

6A.1

Charting Your Evidence: What do you know for sure?

Name each collection of evidence and briefly describe it in the Collection of Evidence column. Review that collection and summarize the information from the collection in the Summary of Findings column. Remember to include your Observation & Reflection Log as one collection of evidence. You should also have at least one body of student work as a collection of evidence. Use as many sheets as necessary to summarize all your collections of evidence.

Collection of Evidence	Summary of Findings
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

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6A.2

Weighing Your Evidence: How do I reflect on my information?

This is a structured reflection process. It will help you to think about your question and all the information you've gathered. It is best done all in one sitting. (Note: You may complete the activity *Charting Your Evidence* bit by bit, but do this reflection process in one sitting.)

1. Take out your original *Draft inquiry Plan Worksheet*. Read your question.
2. Skim through your Observation & Reflection Log and mark the catalyzed questions that are now important to you.
3. Read through all the summaries from the *Charting Your Evidence* activity. (Even though you wrote them, read them again all at once with your original question and the important catalyzed questions in mind.)
4. Answer the following:
 - Which collection(s) must I disregard because they don't pertain to or provide information about my question(s)?
 - Which collection(s) do I put the most stock in because they most strongly relate to my question(s)?
 - Are there contradictions in the evidence—even in those collections that strongly relate to my question(s)?
 - Do I have a reason or an explanation for those contradictions?
 - Considering the information I have at this moment, how would I answer my question(s)?
 - How sure am I of my answer?
 - What more information would help me to answer my question(s) or be more sure of my answer?
 - Do I need to collect more information? (If you have the time and the inclination, you may want to collect more evidence. Or you may decide to share what you have at this point with your learning community and conclude your inquiry study without coming to a definitive answer.)