

Group Work Assignment on Evidence and Rules

Your group is an investigative team that must determine what may have happened. It will be your responsibility to report your findings and conclusions.

1. Where was the brooch hidden?
2. Make a list of all the evidence. Evidence includes concrete, observable information; personal testimony; written documents; and material objects and their condition or appearance.
3. Next explain how each piece of evidence supports your claim of where the brooch is. Each explanation will be a generally accepted rule, which may begin with a phrase such as, "As a rule..." If other members of your team disagree with you, find evidence that will convince them.
4. Be prepared to explain why your evidence supports your case. Eventually you will write a report to convince the others in the class that your analysis makes the most sense.

Now, as a group, come up with your own evidence and rules/warrants. You must have at least five pieces of evidence.

EVIDENCE	RULE/WARRANT	Conclusions
1. There are snowballs on the roof.	As a rule, when someone throws a snowball they are trying to hit something.	Derek was probably trying to hit the crows to keep them away.
2. There are two divots in the snow by the snowman.	Usually, when someone disturbs the snow it leaves a divot or an imprint.	This is probably where Derek got the snow to make the two snowballs he threw on the roof.
3. The footprints leaving the school yard are deeper and spaced farther apart than those coming into the school.	As a rule, people's footprints are deeper and farther apart when running.	Derek probably walked into the school yard and ran out.
4. There is a crow flying away.	Usually, crows are will fly away when frightened or startled.	The crow flying away was probably hit or frightened by the snowballs thrown by Derek.
5. There are crows on the roof.	Most of the time, crows are curious, and they are attracted by bright, shiny objects.	The crows are probably attracted by Derek and the brooch.
6. The head of the snowman is slumped forward.	As a rule, a snowman's head is straight unless disturbed.	Derek probably tried to hide the brooch there.
7. Both gates to the school were pushed or pulled open.	As a rule, snow will pile up where a gate has been pulled or pushed open.	Derek probably pushed the gate open to get into the school yard and pulled the other one open to get out.