



Developing | Exemplar Essay

## Investigating Change

### Changing Perspective Over Time



#### Claim and Focus

A claim based on the topic is made in the introduction (“The following paragraphs will explain how Galileo and Copernicus changed their minds and why other people should also change their minds sometimes”). However, this claim and the essay overall do not fully address the demands of the task, instead focusing mainly on the stories of Galileo and Copernicus, rather than applying those stories to the larger demands of the prompt.



#### Analysis and Evidence

The response cites evidence from the sources, but it is not drawn evenly from all source texts, nor is it properly quoted (“geo referring to the earth and centric meaning in the center (Source 1)”). The response contains large portions of summarized source information, rather than properly quoted and cited evidence. There is minimal explanation following this evidence and summarization, demonstrating little analysis of the source texts and task.



#### Organization

The essay includes a basic introduction-body-conclusion organizational structure. A conclusion is present (“In conclusion, they all three had different perspectives and changed their minds over time...”), but it is not fully developed, thus leaving the reader with an incomplete view of the analysis. Transition usage is sparse (“then” and “In conclusion”) and does not effectively show the relationships between and among ideas.



#### Language and Style

The writer of this essay attempts a formal style, but that style is not maintained throughout the essay, including sentences that slip into a more informal style of writing (“Then Galileo said he agreed with Copernicus about the heliocentric view”). Some domain-specific language is included (“geocentric” and “heliocentric”), but the inclusion of this language does not consistently address the complexity of the topic.



### Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait ‘looks like’ in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see “25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays” by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

## Investigating Change



### Changing Perspective Over Time

Many people change their minds for many different reasons. Some of those reasons could be peer pressure, things they see, things they feel, making mistakes about something, or actual evidence about something. In some points in history, scientists have changed their minds about things, like Galileo and Copernicus and how they changed their thoughts about geocentric and heliocentric views. The following paragraphs will explain how Galileo and Copernicus changed their minds and why other people should also change their minds sometimes.

We all think differently about things because we have different perspectives. That happened with some scientists who thought differently about things and built upon what each other knew. They were Claudius Ptolemy, Nicolaus Copernicus, and Galileo Galilei. Ptolemy came up with the geocentric view about the planets, geo referring to the earth and centric meaning in the center (Source 1). Then in 1543, Copernicus thought that Ptolemy was wrong about that. He didn't think that the earth was just standing still. He came up with something called heliocentric, which means that it's the sun that stays still and everything else moves around it. (source 4) He saw that all of Ptolemy's math was wrong and that that meant his geocentric view had to be wrong too. This made him change his own mind about the geocentric view, even though it meant he went against all of his teachers and Ptolemy, who came up with it (Source 4). Then Galileo said he agreed with Copernicus about the heliocentric view (source 5). They all built on each other's ideas because they could see different things than the person before them.

This can also happen in regular life. Someone can believe something and then



the next person can find some issues with it, making them change their own mind.

This can keep happening as time goes on. These people are changing their minds based on evidence they see and different perspectives that they have.

In conclusion, they all three had different perspectives and changed their minds over time. They built on what the other people before them had done and saw problems that they could figure out. This is one of the big reasons that people can change their minds over time.