

Can courts trust the polygraph?

Developers: D. Katchevich and N. Arenst. The activity is taken from the textbook: "Police in the service of society"

Institute: The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot.
Country: Israel.

Assessment criteria

Writing comprehension:

During the activity students are asked twice to write their justified opinion regarding the subject of the lesson – "Can courts trust polygraph?"

The first writing is based on general knowledge, and the second should be based on the scientific knowledge they learned in the unit. We suggest the assessment of the writing comprehension with the following rubrics, as shown in table 1:

Argument	Number of scientific explanations	Number of examples	Logic connection between the argument and explanations
			Yes/No

Table 1 – rubrics for assessment of written argumentation.

Class discussion:

The beginning and the end of the activity are both class discussions. We suggest teachers to assess the participation of the students, and to give credit to those who participate in the discussions and actively contribute to it.

Group work:

During the activity, the teacher observes the students and grades them according the rubrics that are included in the "Student Evaluation Tool Based on the Teacher's Observations assessment tool", table 2.

Student Evaluation Tool Based on the Teacher's Observations

Group's subject: _____

Date: _____

Dimension	Criteria for evaluation The student:	Students' name in the group			
Functioning in the group 50%	Contributes to the group discussion during the learning the subject				
	Has patience for the group's members				
	Knows and understands the objectives of the activity (active observation)				
	Thinks in a creative manner and exhibits vision				
	Average				
Presenting the experiment - orally 50%	Presents the activity in a clear and practical manner				
	Presents knowledge and understanding of the subject				
	Uses precise and proper scientific language				
	Average				

Table 2 – Student Evaluation Tool Based on the Teacher's Observations assessment tool.