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| **NGSS Strand** | **Emerging** | **Progressing** | **Meets** | **Exemplary** |
| ***OBTAIN, EVALUATE, AND COMMUNICATE INFORMATION*** | When conducting independent research, relies on one or two relevant sources without evaluating their credibility. | When conducting independent research, selects a limited number of relevant scientific sources and evaluates their credibility minimally. | When conducting independent research, selects multiple relevant scientific sources, and evaluates the evidence and credibility of each source. | When conducting independent research, selects multiple relevant, high-quality scientific sources representing a variety of viewpoints, and thoroughly evaluates the evidence and credibility of each source. |
| **NGSS Strand** | **Emerging** | **Progressing** | **Meets** | **Exemplary** |
| ***DEVELOP MODEL*** | Designs and explains a model that generates data to support explanations, predict phenomena, analyze systems, and/or solve problems. Design or explanation of the model includes major errors or omissions. | Designs and explains a model that generates data to support explanations, predict phenomena, analyze systems, and/or solve problems. Design or explanation of the model includes minor errors or omissions. | Designs and explains a model that generates data to support explanations, predict phenomena, analyze systems, and/or solve problems. | Designs, explains, and evaluates a model to generate data to support explanations, predict phenomena, analyze systems, and/or solve problems. |

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| **NGSS Strand** | **Emerging** | **Progressing** | **Meets** | **Exemplary** |
| ***USE MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTATIONAL THINKING*** | Identifies mathematical concepts or methods (e.g., ratio, rate, percent, basic operations, algebra, and functions) relevant to scientific questions or engineering problems, but applies them with major errors or omissions. | Applies appropriate mathematical concepts or methods (e.g., ratio, rate, percent, basic operations, algebra, and functions) relevant to scientific questions or engineering problems, but applies them with minor errors or omissions. | Accurately applies appropriate mathematical concepts and methods (e.g., ratio, rate, percent, basic operations, algebra, and functions) to answer scientific questions or engineering problems. | Accurately applies appropriate mathematical concepts and methods (e.g., ratio, rate, percent, basic operations, algebra, and functions) to represent and solve scientific questions or engineering problems and explains whether the answer “makes sense”. |