

My Chemical History: A Theoretical Research Paper

“Everything we have, our whole existence, is chemical.” –Whitson Sadler

The atoms in our body have been used in other places around the world since the beginning of time. Your task is to write a research paper about the history of three of the atoms in your body. There is no way for you to *actually* know where an individual atom came from, hence the “theoretical” research paper title. You can, however, research how specific atoms are used in plants and animals. So, do some research but imagination and humor are also a must!

Requirements:

- Select atoms of three different elements to research. One of your atoms must come from a **plant**, one must come from an **animal**, and one must come from another **person**.
- Write an introduction describing how atoms are conserved or “recycled” over the course of history. Humor is appreciated!
- Write at least a paragraph (5-7 sentences) about **each** atom. Include the following information:
 - Where the atom was before it was a part of you
 - What the atom did for that object
 - How the atom came to be a part of your body
 - What the atom does in your body
 - Example paragraph: My grandma Hertha was one of the most amazing women I have ever met. While she has been gone from this earth for nearly four years, she continues to be a part of me through her shining example and through the wonders of chemistry. While my Gram was living, oxygen atoms within her bloodstream were vital to help her organs function. When she exhaled, some of these oxygen atoms bonded to carbon atoms and left her body as carbon dioxide waste molecules. Many of her carbon dioxide molecules were used by her spider plant during photosynthesis and, the plant eventually returned the oxygen atom to me while sitting at my desk one day. That oxygen traveled to my heart to create some of my heart muscle and therefore my Gram is truly in my heart to this day.
- Write a conclusion about how the conservation of atoms is pretty amazing...

Helpful websites:

<http://www.freeinfosociety.com/site.php?postnum=658>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plant_nutrition

<http://www.seafriends.org.nz/books/periodi.htm#essential>

	Needed More Effort (0-3 points)	On the Right Track... (4-7 points)	Meeting Expectations! (8-10 points)
Introduction	Introduction is much too short or not included at all	Introduction is too general and/or does not prepare the reader for what is to come	Introduction sets the stage for a paper about how atoms are recycled/conserved over time
Atom #1	Very few details are given about the atom or its path through history	Either the uses of the atom or its path of being “recycled” are too vague	Specific uses of the atom are described in detail with a clever story of how the atom got “recycled” from one place to another
Atom #2	Very few details are given about the atom or its path through history	Either the uses of the atom or its path of being “recycled” are too vague	Specific uses of the atom are described in detail with a clever story of how the atom got “recycled” from one place to another
Atom #3	Very few details are given about the atom or its path through history	Either the uses of the atom or its path of being “recycled” are too vague	Specific uses of the atom are described in detail with a clever story of how the atom got “recycled” from one place to another
Conclusion	Conclusion is much too short or not included at all	Conclusion basically summarizes the paper and isn't anything special	Conclusion summarizes the tone and content of the entire paper and leaves the reader wanting to know even more about the topic of atoms