**Debunking the Paranormal**

**Introduction:**

Do you believe in ghosts? Bigfoot? Alien abductions? If you said yes to any of these, you're not alone. Many people hold beliefs about the existence of paranormal phenomena. However, many of these things cannot and have not been supported by scientific evidence. Though many people (even well respected people) claim that science can prove the existence of the phenomena, many of their arguments fail in the face of critical thinking and scientific reasoning. While certainly there is nothing wrong in believing in these things, it’s important to distinguish what science is and how it is used to discover patterns and knowledge about the world around us. Science is based on natural and predictable phenomena that can be tested. Beware of claims made by "pseudoscientists". Watch this video on "[Evidence of Yeti](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xa00jq_evidence-of-yetiy_animals)".

1. What do you think?
2. Evaluate the claim using the principles of CONPTT.
	1. C
	2. O
	3. N
	4. P
	5. T
	6. T

1. Choose a topic that is considered to be in the realm of the paranormal, such as alien abductions, ESP, or ghosts. The task is to analyze the so-called evidence surrounding the phenomena from a scientific viewpoint and use critical thinking skills to evaluate that evidence.

Compile a short list of claims and evidence used to support the existence of the phenomena. You can use various websites and your own knowledge base to compile this list. For instance if I was doing a report on Yeti, some of the claims I might list are: eyewitness accounts, footprints found, and videotapes.

1. 4. Evaluate the claim using the principles of CONPTT.
	1. C
	2. O
	3. N
	4. P
	5. T
	6. T
2. Write a short, but descriptive argument for why this phenomenon is scientific. Discuss ways that science supports the existence. Propose a research method that could support the existence of the phenomenon. The argument should be persuasive in nature, meaning it provides information that would cause someone to validate the existence of the phenomenon.

This should be written on a separate piece of paper using your best grammar and writing abilities. It may be typed. These will be used in a class activity and other students will be reading your argument.