

## Task for *Here on Earth*

### Creating an extended argument

The table below uses two chapters from *Here on Earth* to exemplify how Tim Flannery creates an argument that extends over 280 pages. Use these examples:

- (a) as models for analysing the unfolding of the argument in the remaining chapters
- (b) evaluate the logic of Flannery's argument
- (c) to explore ways that you might elaborate, extend and enhance your own written (and spoken) arguments.

#### Chapter One: Evolution's Motive Force

[Overall, this chapter outlines Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.]

Genre and social purpose	Pages	Description and comments
Anecdote to share a personal reaction in a story	3–4	Flannery makes a personal connection between himself (and the reader) the historical figure of Charles Darwin.
Biographical recount to recount life stages	4–11	This section recounts Darwin's professional life, elaborating on ideas that Flannery has set up in his anecdote. This recount includes comments by Flannery, especially what his story reveals about Darwin's personality and professional qualities.
Consequential explanation to explain multiple effects	11–15	Here, the recount is enhanced by explaining the consequences of Darwin's (and Wallace's) theory. In particular, Flannery connects the reaction of Victorian and our contemporary societies. It should be noted that there is also some extension happening in this section: see p13 where Flannery writes 'Not all societies, however, are so handicapped.'
Factorial explanation to explain multiple causes	12–15	Flannery enhances his story further by explaining <b>why</b> Darwin's ideas have been misunderstood, but also why his theory had broad appeal in the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries. Clearly there is overlap between the consequential and factorial explanations.

See Chapter 9 analysis on page 2.../

**Chapter 9: Superorganisms**

[Overall, this chapter explains the concept of the superorganism.]

<b>Genre and social purpose</b>	<b>Pages</b>	<b>Description and comments</b>
Sequential explanation to explain a sequence	111	The first paragraph of this chapter explains the evolution of the cockroach to the termite. In essence, the rest of this chapter elaborates in various ways on this paragraph.
Historical recount to recount historical events	112	The history of research on superorganisms is recounted.
Sequential explanation to explain a sequence	112–114	The evolution of the ant superorganism is elaborated through examples and comments.
Compositional report to describe parts of a whole	114	Flannery extends our knowledge of the superorganism by describing the parts of the attine ant colonies.
Factorial explanation to explain multiple causes	114–116	Here, the account of superorganisms is enhanced by explaining the factors that allow the ants manage to coordinate their actions, i.e. the reader is informed HOW this occurs. In this section, Flannery also elaborates with comments that draws parallels ant between colonies to human societies. Additionally, he extends the explanation by contrasting examples of ant colonies and human societies.
Discussion to discuss two or more points of view	117–118	Flannery extends the explanation, by adding a discussion of the similarities and differences between ant colonies and human societies.
Biographical recount to recount life stages	118 ('The insect organism... Oregon in the west.')	The evolution of the insect superorganism is elaborated with an example: the story of the fire ant in the New World.
Sequential explanation to explain a sequence	118-119 (In their native homeland...by seemingly small triggers.')	The history is enhanced by explaining HOW the organisms were able to spread from the North American state of Virginia to Oregon.
Exposition to argue a point of view	119 (is it possible...may be found.')	Flannery concludes with an elaboration (comment), arguing that the rise of human societies can be partially explained by reference to the ants.