

Name: _____

Hour: _____ Date: _____

Chemistry: *Activity – Observation of a Burning Candle*

Introduction

Everyone thinks of himself as a good observer, but being a good observer is not necessarily easy. Good observation skills include concentration, attention to detail, ingenuity, and patience. In addition, observation takes practice.

There are two types of observations: **qualitative** and **quantitative**. **Qualitative** observations describe the object or event in words, without using numbers. For example: "The car is red" is a qualitative observation. **Quantitative** observations, as the name implies, describe the object or event using measurable quantities; that is, numbers. For instance, "The car is traveling at 100 kilometers per hour" is a quantitative observation.

Materials

The following materials are needed for this activity:



candle, drip paper, matches, ruler

Activity

Part A. Observe an unlit candle and record your observations in the space provided. Use complete sentences. Circle the Observation Number in front of each observation you make that is *quantitative*.

Part B. Now, light the candle and record your observations in complete sentences. Again, circle the Observation Number in front of each observation you make that is *quantitative*.

***You will need to make at least 20 observations;
at least 5 of them must be quantitative.***

Observation Number

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

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11.

12.

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14.

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25.

