

**UNSW Bragg Prize for Science Writing 2017
Thought Starter**

Name:

Choose one of the articles provided below and answer the following questions.

- a. [Every lizard counts](#) by Nicole Gill, BAS2016 (NewSouth), *The Monthly*
- b. [Once bitten: the tick making a meal of carnivores](#) by Bianca Nogrady, BAS2016 (NewSouth), BBC Future online
- c. [Meat the relatives](#) by Michael Slezak, BAS2016 (NewSouth), *New Scientist*

Title

1. What is the title of the story?

2. What hints are there in the title that suggest what the article might be about?

3. Why did you choose this title, why did it interest you the most compared to the others?

Structure and style

4. Read the article from beginning to end. Describe what you liked about this article.

5. Read the first line of the story. Does it grab your attention? How has the writer tried to engage the reader at the beginning of the piece?

6. Has the writer used concise sentences that go straight to the point? Give some examples of sentences that are succinct and don't contain any excess words.

7. Does the text have a distinct beginning, middle and end? Complete the following table to summarize the kind of information given in these 3 main sections of the story.

Section of the text	What are the particular features of this section of text? What has the author written about specifically in this section of text?
Beginning	
Middle	
End	

8. Has the writer used lots of creative adjectives to make the story engaging? Give some examples.

9. Has the writer used active verbs to draw the reader in? Find some examples in the text and write them here.

Text type

10. Do you think this text is a news report, an opinion piece or a piece of persuasive essay? Give reasons that support your choice.
