



**evaluate:**

to judge or decide how good, useful, or  
successful something is

## Mars Rover Model Celebration – Lesson Plan

### Introduction:

One of the new vocabulary words for this unit is **evaluate**. Evaluate means “to judge or decide how good, useful, or successful something is”. People often evaluate to see how well something is working. Often, once they have evaluated something, they will then change some aspect of it so that it works better.

These two pictures will help us understand the word evaluate. The first picture shows a report card. Most of us are very familiar with report cards. Teachers use report cards to evaluate (or grade) your work to see how well you are learning the material taught in class.

In the second picture, the doctor is evaluating the x-ray to see if the patient has a broken arm. In other words, he is evaluating how healthy the patient’s arm is.

Inside the word “evaluate” is the word “value” which means “worth” or “importance”. How much something is worth or how important it is are closely related to how good, useful, or successful it is. Looking at word parts can often help you figure out the meaning of a new word.

Using the examples we just discussed, the report card suggests that the student has been successful in learning the required material for math, history and science. However, the B- in reading suggests that the student may be struggling a little in this area could learn even more. Similarly, if the doctors see no problems with your x-rays (the bone is not broken), their evaluation of your x-ray would be positive in that they would judge your arm to be in good health.

### Example:

Here is another example of evaluate: when your mom goes to the grocery store, she evaluates the condition of the fruits and vegetables she puts in her shopping cart and only selects the ones that are not rotten or damaged.

### Reflection:

Think about what you did yesterday. At some point in the day, you had to evaluate something. It may have been at home, at school or in a store. Tell your neighbor one thing you evaluated. Tell how you evaluated the item or situation and what your judgment or decision about the item/situation was. Use the word evaluate as you talk with your neighbor.

### Make it personal:

People often evaluate their own work and ideas and one of the most important aspects of evaluate is determining the next step once you know how good or successful you have been or haven’t been. Why would it be important to make changes after you evaluate your own work? Begin your answer with “After I evaluate my work, it is important to make changes because...”  
*Making changes after an evaluation can often lead to important improvements*