Name _____

THE MARTIAN AND THE CAR: Characteristics of Life

During his first mission for the Martian government, Marvin the Martian was sent to Earth by the Martian government to find evidence life. While on Earth, Marvin captured a car and brought it back to Mars. He thought he'd found a good example of life on Earth. The Martian government does not believe that the car Marvin brought back is alive; therefore, he must stand trial for failing to perform his Martian duties.

At the trial, Marvin spoke in his own defense. *"I first saw these life forms rolling along roads in great numbers. They were giving off thick clouds of waste as they moved. They seemed to move in herds, as many of the cars moved in the same direction in groups. They seemed to have a great deal of energy - some of them moved faster than 70 miles per hour! When one of these life forms stopped or slow down, the others behind it reacted. They slowed down and gave off a red light from the back, and sometimes they would make honking noises. I observed that they would often stop to feed on a liquid substance. I even found their birthing facility in a place called 'Detroit' where new individuals were born and carried off to nurseries for adoption."*

Your task?

You work for a major newspaper, and have been asked by your editor to write up a pre-verdict prediction. Predict what both the prosecution (against Marvin) and defense (for Marvin) will say in their closing statements about the car's being *alive. (Prosecutors will try to show why he was wrong… defense would try to show how he was kind of close…)*

For the prosecution's argument, please explain how Marvin's testimony is wrong – that his observations are flawed. Instead, you will give an actual example of this characteristic of life and use it as evidence against Marvin's testimony. Make a chart LIKE the one below on your own paper, filling in what each will say about each characteristic

Characteristic	**Defense**	**Prosecution**
Cellular Organization		
Chemicals of Life		
Energy Use		
Growth and development		
Reproduction		
Response to surroundings		