

## Why Care About Science?

Hopefully you have some new thoughts after reading about the importance of a high quality science education. Take some time to process what you just read. Answer the questions below to guide you in your thought process.

1. The article makes a claim that "It is imperative that the public is engaged in science issues which have an impact on their lives, in their own self-interest, to best thrive in modern society." According to the article, why is it so important that the general public have a strong scientific understanding?
2. Give two (2) examples of when the general public may have to be "informed by science" in order to make a decision on something.
3. According to the author of the article, most citizens are not able to separate scientific fact from opinion. What are these types of citizens more influenced by?
4. Would you consider the type of person mentioned in the previous question a leader or a follower? Which type of person would you rather be considered and why?
5. Why is the nonscientist "increasingly at a disadvantage"?
6. What happens when there are fewer and fewer "science appreciators" within society?
7. When people that are trained to be scientists enter a career outside of a scientific field what benefits does this provide to these other career fields?
8. When people do not understand something they generally see it as unimportant and therefore see no need to spend money on it. What kinds of negative consequences have resulted from governments not spending money on science because citizens did not see the need?
9. There is a quote at the end of the article that states "We must consistently and clearly educate the public about what science is and is not, and how it benefits the citizenship." Where are citizens supposed to gain this education and why is it important?
10. Why must we "engage the public in the challenges presented by science"?