

## **Assessment 8**

### **Social Dimensions of Scientific Practice**

*Note: For this assessment, you will refer to the previous reading, President Barack Obama's "What Science Can Do."*

President Obama's address to the National Academy of Sciences illustrates how governmental policies can influence scientific research. It presents some reasons why the United States government invests in scientific research, and it highlights some of the expected returns on this investment.

As you read the address, search for evidence about the values President Obama thinks should drive scientific research. Use this evidence to defend a thesis that identifies two values President Obama thinks should inform scientific research. Then, in light of the readings from Unit 6, critically assess the appropriateness of these values—that is, whether these values undermine the authority or objectivity of scientific knowledge.

This assessment will take approximately two hours to complete.

