

Assessment 8 Social Dimensions of Scientific Practice

Guide to Responding

Defending a thesis about the values a person thinks should drive scientific research involves stating, in a clear and concise declarative sentence, a claim about which values the person proposes as values that scientists should use in deciding how to direct their research, and then providing evidence—typically in the form of quotations—that supports the truth of that claim.

Critically assessing the appropriateness of a value for science’s authority and objectivity involves: stating a clear and concise thesis regarding whether the value undermines the *authority* of scientific knowledge; providing an argument that supports this thesis; stating a second thesis regarding whether the value undermines the *objectivity* of scientific knowledge; and providing an argument for this second thesis.

