

# Interview with a Scientist

For this project, you are to **conduct an interview with a scientist**.

A scientist could be anyone who works in any scientific, engineering, technological, or mathematical field. For example, you could choose to interview someone who is an aerospace engineer, an astronomer, or even your doctor or a surgeon, etc.

While I would prefer you interview someone who is not a member of your immediate family, if there is someone within your family who you think qualifies as a scientist, then that will be acceptable. I strongly encourage you to interview someone who works in the field of science in which you are most interested, though.

*\*While science teachers are scientists, you may not interview one, I would like you to interview someone who does science outside of the K-12 school setting.\**

Your interview does NOT have to be a face-to-face interview (though, that would be highly encouraged!). You MAY interview your scientist via phone or even by email.

You will **ask your scientist the following questions**:

- In which field of science do you study/work?
- What is your role/job/title? Where do you work?
- Briefly describe your most current project on or a recent fascinating/challenging case you were involved with.
- What do you like most about science and your particular field of scientific study?
- What do you find most challenging about it?
- In your work, do you follow a particular scientific method, or a sequence of steps every time, or does your process change/vary depending on your project/case?
- How does science impact your faith, spirituality, or moral beliefs?
- Two-three other questions of your own.

*\*If the person you are interviewing does not feel comfortable answering any of these questions, then you can give them the option of passing. However, you must ask them at least 7-8 questions. That means you should have a series of additional back-up questions to ask your scientist.*

After you conduct your interview, you will **write a 1-2 page report** and reflection on your interview. Your report and reflection must:

- Explain why you chose to interview this person
- Provide a summary of the interview (i.e. a summary of the scientist's answers to each question)
- Reflect on what you learned about science from your interview
  - What is doing science like in the "real world"?
  - What new thing did you learn about how science is done in the real world?
  - How does what you learned from your interview impact your future pursuits of scientific study?

**Due Wednesday October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012**