

Psychics and Scientists

A series of short scenarios will center on the basic question of “What is Science?”, including measurement of psychic phenomena, a faculty research question, a breath holding experiment, analysis of class score data, and a discussion of what is a theory?

Section 1.3 Scientists Study the Natural World (pp. 10-14) contains the readings for this scenario.

- If you are not sure what a **hypothesis** is or how it differs from a **prediction** or a **theory**, read page 10
- If you are not sure what we mean by a **control variable**, read about standardized variables on page 11
- If you are having trouble distinguishing between **independent** (manipulated, predictor) and **dependent** (response) variables, read page 11
- If you are having trouble understanding what is meant by a control or **control group**, read page 12
- If you are not sure what a **theory** is and how it differs from **fact** or **law**, read page 12
- For a nice example of a **controlled experiment** and an explanation of why no one experiment leads to a complete answer, see the box on page 14