**Why Scientists Study**

**Objectives**

1. To have students link the study of a subject to questions in the field of study.
2. To find questions in everyday things.

**Material List**

1. Computer access or find a list of song lyrics. (*students probably have some memorized*)

**Procedure**

1. Find a song that does not have vulgar, violent, or sexually explicit lyrics.
2. For at least five lines of the song, write questions that can be answered by studying the given subject area. The total number of questions should be at least 20.
3. Use the 5 W's, who, what, where, when, and why, include how, how much, and what if as question starters.

Sample for the subject of biology.

**Nine to Five**

**By Dolly Parton**

* Tumble out of bed and stumble in the kitchen.

What makes me wake up? What makes me move? Why do I stumble? How am I able to find the kitchen? What senses do I use to find my way?

* Pour myself a cup of ambition.

Why does caffeine w#ake me up? Will caffeine keep me awake at night? Are there other animals that use caffeine? Where in the brain is ambition located? How much caffeine do coffee plants make? How do they make caffeine? Where do coffee trees grow? Who discovered caffeine? What will happen if a person gets too much caffeine? Why will this happen? How am I able to taste the coffee? Why do some coffee’s taste different than others?

* and yawn, and stretch, and try to come to life.

Why do I yawn? What good is stretching? Should I stretch before exercising? Why or why not? What is life?

* Jump in the shower.

How can I feel the water? Does the soap really move the bacteria? Why doesn’t soap get rid of my athlete’s foot? What causes athlete’s foot? What will happen if I stopped taking showers or baths? Why would this happen?

* And the blood starts pumping;

What pumps my blood? Does it really pump faster after I get up? What is in blood? How does blood help me? What will happen to the speed of pumping if I get up rapidly or slowly?

* out on the street, the traffic starts jumping,

Why is traffic pollution harmful to me? How much pollution can people tolerate? How can I hear all of the noise? What parts of the body are most affected by traffic pollution? Why are they affected? When did pollution become a problem?

* with folks like me on the job from nine to five.

Why do I look similar to other folks? Why do I look different? If I have kids, what are the chances they will have the same eye color as me?

**Extensions/Additional Comments**

* Have students answer some selected questions.
* Students can give the chapter title in the book where some information on each question is located. This will be easier to grade than having them give the chapter or page number.

**Assessment**

Scoring guide.   
20 or more questions that can be answered using information learned in the subject area or by scientific investigations. 5 points per question, up to 10 extra points for extra questions. Questions should use at least 5 different question starters.   
Since scoring is simple students can grade each others papers. Five points for each question.