

## **Response to The Cosmic Perspective**

### **Introduction**

Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson is a well-known astronomy communicator as the host of the reimagined Cosmos series and as the director of the Hayden Planetarium in New York. He writes a monthly Universe Essay in Natural History Magazine. You will read and then write a 500 or so word reaction to the April 2007 column.

### **Directions**

Read a printed copy of “The Cosmic Perspective” with a pencil or pen nearby. Mark places in the text where the author touches on the following questions:

1. What is the purpose of scientific research?
2. How should the public view scientific research?
3. What type of person does the author portray as a scientist; who does science?

After reading, summarize the author’s answers to the above questions, and discuss at least one instance each where you agree and where you disagree with the author’s answers.

Target your writing as if you were explaining your reaction to someone else in class. Don’t worry too much about style and editing, focus more on the content of your response than its presentation.

Bring the text you marked up to class on Monday and be prepared to discuss it (you don’t need to have finished writing by then).

### **Grading Criteria**

Informal, amount of thought/effort put into response.

- 0 – no opinion or original thought presented
- 5 – satisfactory opinion or original thought presented
- 10 – well thought out, clearly some time was spent thinking the arguments over

**Due Date: Wednesday October 1 by 5pm**