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Short Paper 1: A Definition of Science

Humans are a species that tend to ask questions. From very early on in life children begin asking their parents “why?” wanting to know more and more about the confusing world around them. So as they grow older they find ways to answer some of life’s questions. Some people search to find more answers than others in life in science, expression, society, and civilization. Those people tend to focus on one or two disciplines to expand their knowledge of the world. Some choose to expand their knowledge in science. Science is hard to define even though people experience it every single day no matter who they are or where in the universe they are. It explains each part of life from the miracle of birth to the stars in the sky. Science is concrete. It uses the scientific method to test hypotheses in order to answer a question with out bias or error by repetition and reliability. With out it the human race would be lost and definitely not where it is today. It has expanded over the years. Everything people do, every part of it could be explained scientifically- although it could be looked at through different lenses as well. Before science there were many questions in the world, questions that humans craved the answers for- where did human beings come from? Why is there a day and night? What is fire? Even though many of these questions have been answered, there still exist many questions that remain unanswered. But by researching using the scientific method, scientists are coming up with more and more answers. There are many areas that are covered in science. Just looking at those covered at Elon, there are dozens. Chemistry, Calculus, Statistics, Biology, Physics, Computer Science, Astronomy, Geography, and Oceanography are only a few examples of the kinds of science in the world. Each of these disciplines has something in common. And that is that they ask questions and use the same methods to answer them. Although certain scientists are specialized to one field, they all use the method to come to their answers.

Some tend to look at the world in a scientific- specifically mathematic- point of view. They try to answer questions by looking back to their classes in Chemistry, Physics, or Calculus to solve problems they come across. While other lenses make sense and are useful, science uses concrete facts rather than opinions or ideas. They look at the numerical facts of things and record and map things for others to use in the future. When someone looks around them in an amusement park, they may think about how nice it would be to photograph or paint the people or think about the fear that people have when they go on the rides. Someone who thinks mathematically tends to look at the physics of the park- how the rides work and what makes them safe or not. Those who think mathematically or scientifically are the ones who build the rides and make them safe. The definition of science is broad- it encompasses many parts of life and involves many branches. It explains much of what humans are and how the universe works. Along with the other disciplines of the world humans are able to answer the mysteries of the world they live in.