**Wk 10 Req'd Participation Discussion: Model validation is very difficult**

Model validation is very difficult if not impossible, so rather than attempting to validate a model, it is probably better to spend the time locating more data and fine-tuning model logic. True or False? Take a position and defend your answer.

While I would agree that model validation can, in many cases, be interminable; I would not agree that it should be skipped. It is imperative that the model undergo comparisons to the real-world system for key similarities. There will be models in which it takes more time in data collection and verification than model validation, but each model will have specific demands. A modeler should perform due diligence at every step of the process, and no step should be foregone.

It should never be taken as rote that the model’s relevance to the modeler’s mental model bears enough relevance to the real-world system to yield relevant results. The System Dynamics modeling method is for modeling concepts which are difficult to mentally model. As a modeler, you should not trust your mental model of a subject which is inherently tough to mentally model, enough to consider verification to be sufficient in the proving of your model before you run it for results.