



PARSEL teaching –learning materials compiled by the consortium
as part of an EC FP6 funded project (SAS6-CT-2006-042922-PARSEL).



How do scientists work? (Students)

Instructions

With this task, we invite you to reflect about how scientists work. This task presents three different phases:

Phase 1: Homework

For homework, write a fictional scientific story about the work of a group of scientists over a controversial issue related with science and/or technology. You can choose the story plot, but it has to describe how scientists would behave in face of a certain situation.

Phase 2: Group discussion about the selected stories

In groups of four to five students you have to analyse and discuss one of the stories selected by the teacher, concerning the following issues:

- Scientists' characteristics;
- Scientists' activity (goals, places where it develops, methodologies and research tools, relationships among scientists);
- The impact of science and technology over society;
- The role of society in controlling scientific and technological research;
- Fear of eventual undesirable secondary effects which result from scientific and technological innovation;.

Each group should identify and justify which issues: a) it considers more interesting; b) it agrees with; and c) it disagrees with.

Phase 3: Classroom story reading and classroom discussion

Each group has to read its story to the class, to present the issues that it considers more interesting and those with which the group agrees or disagrees. At the end of each presentation, the entire class discusses issues raised by the group.

Developers: Pedro Reis
Institute: University of Lisbon
Country: Portugal



This task assessment will be based on the written stories (its appropriateness to given instructions; diversity of the plot's elements; clarity and coherence of the written text; orthographic correction), on group work and on the presentation and discussion about the work. (See How do scientists work_assessment.doc).