

## **Asking Questions and Defining Problems 9-12**

### **NGSS Practice 1**

Asking questions and defining problems in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to formulating, refining, and evaluating empirically testable questions and design problems using models and simulations.

- Ask questions
  - that arise from careful observation of phenomena, or unexpected results, to clarify and/or seek additional information.
  - that arise from examining models or a theory, to clarify and/or seek additional information and relationships.
  - to determine relationships, including quantitative relationships, between independent and dependent variables.
  - to clarify and refine a model, an explanation, or an engineering problem.
- Evaluate a question to determine if it is testable and relevant.
- Ask questions that can be
  - investigated within the scope of the school laboratory, research facilities, or field (e.g., outdoor environment) with available resources and, when appropriate, frame a hypothesis based on a model or theory.
- Ask and/or evaluate questions that challenge the premise(s) of an argument, the interpretation of a data set, or the suitability of a design.
- Define a design problem that involves the development of a process or system with interacting components and criteria and constraints that may include social, technical, and/or environmental considerations.