

# Example of Completed Week 1 Reading Guide

## Gregory & Miller Ch 1

### What are three criticisms of the public understanding of science movement?

1. Overweening scientism, mechanically reducing every area of human experience to those of its components which has something to say
2. Motivated solely by scientist's ambitions to drain yet more cash from taxpayers
3. Activities that purport to increase public understanding fail badly both to address the real needs of citizens and to help them make sense of their world

### What was the concern of the AAAS regarding the effects that of greater public engagement among scientists would have what effect on their commitment to science?

1. Greater engagement with the public might dilute the Association's commitment to science

### What are the six benefits of the public understanding of science movement (i.e., the six benefits of the movement)?

1. Benefit to science
  - a. Science needs at least tolerance from the broader community if it is to function
2. National economics
  - a. Consumerism, nuclear and modern biological industries
3. National Power and Influence
  - a. Especially when two superpowers are trying to convince their neighbors their way is the best way to organize
4. Individuals
  - a. Personal decisions could be helped by science
5. Democratic Government and Society as a Whole
  - a. Information society
6. Intellectual, Aesthetic and Moral Benefits
  - a. Inspired cultural achievements

## Week 1 Key

### 8 Myths about public understanding of science

#### What are the 8 myths about the public understanding of science?

1. People need more information to understand science of concern to the public
2. It is the public's responsibility to learn scientific information of policy concerns
3. Science literacy in the United States is declining
4. People who question the science lack education
5. Arguments supported by facts and evidence will change people's beliefs
6. Disagreements are about the facts, which people just do not understand
7. Scientists know how to talk in a way that the public will understand
8. Public trust in science has decreased