

Appendix table 7-25

Importance of process, credentials, and external validation to belief that something is scientific: 2006

(Percent)

Attribute (n = 1,864)	Very important	Pretty important	Not too important	Not important at all	Don't know
Process					
Solid evidence	80	14	2	1	3
Different interpretations.....	73	20	2	1	4
Repeated experiment.....	67	26	3	1	4
Credentials					
Advanced degrees	62	28	5	1	3
University setting	33	47	13	4	4
Laboratory.....	41	31	20	5	4
External validation					
Common sense.....	39	34	15	8	3
Religious beliefs	10	16	31	39	5

NOTES: Responses to how important each of eight statements is to making something scientific. Process statements: (1) *The conclusions are based on solid evidence*; (2) *The researchers carefully examine different interpretations of the results, even ones they disagree with*; (3) *Other scientists repeat the experiment, and find similar results*. Credentials statements: (1) *The people who do it have advanced degrees in their field*; (2) *It is done by scientists employed in a university setting*; (3) *The research takes place in a laboratory*. External validation statements: (1) *The results of the research are consistent with common sense*; (2) *The results of the research are consistent with religious beliefs*.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2006).

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