



# Benchmarks Related to NCSS

## Standard I: Culture

### **Cultural Effects on Behavior, grades 6-8**

Although within any society there is usually broad general agreement on what behavior is unacceptable, the standards used to judge behavior vary for different settings and different subgroups, and they may change with time and different political and economic conditions.

### **Learning, grades 3-5**

Learning means using what one already knows to make sense out of new experiences or information, not just storing the new information in one's head.

### **Learning, grades 9-12**

The expectations, moods, and prior experiences of human beings can affect how they interpret new perceptions and ideas. People tend to ignore evidence that challenges their beliefs and to accept evidence that supports them.

### **Scientific Inquiry, grades 6-8**

What people expect to observe often affects what they believe they do observe. Strong beliefs about what should happen in particular circumstances can prevent them from detecting other results. Scientists know about this danger to objectivity and take steps to try to avoid it when designing investigations and examining data.

### **Critical-Response Skills, grades 6-8**

Be aware that there may be more than one reasonable way to interpret a given set of findings.

### **Critical-Response Skills, grades 9-12**

Suggest alternative ways of explaining data and criticize arguments in which data, explanations, or conclusions are represented as the only ones worth consideration, with no mention of other possibilities.