

...the primary arguments today?

Ethics Statement

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) was established as a national umbrella organization for the biological sciences in 1947 and now represents more than 80 professional societies and organizations with a combined membership exceeding 240,000 scientists and educators. AIBS works to promote biological research and to bridge the gulf between science and society. The

following ethics statement, revised in 2002, was designed to give guidance to its members. As you read, notice particularly the elements of the statement that are specific to the practice of science, and which seem to be equally appropriate to all human endeavors. Why is the form of this document appropriate to its content?

Preamble: AIBS believes that a code of ethics is basic to the conduct of science and essential to the maintenance of an honorable and respectable profession. Members of AIBS shall conduct their professional lives in accordance with the ethics standards stated below.

Conduct research and teaching in a manner that is consistent with accepted scientific and teaching methods, maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in all professional endeavors.

Comply with all laws and regulations that apply to the treatment of study organisms and other aspects of professional conduct.

Expose scientific fraud and other forms of professional misconduct whenever it is found.

Be civil and respectful in professional interactions, avoiding discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or age. Treat colleagues, students, and employees fairly.

Be constructive and professional in evaluating the work of colleagues, students, and employees.

Provide recognition of past and present contributions of others to science, and present one's professional opinions only on those topics for which one has training and knowledge.

Promote the free and open exchange of information, not withholding information to substantiate a personal or scientific point of view.

Be candid about potential conflicts of interest in the conduct of professional duties.

Do not speak on behalf of AIBS without written permission from the president of the Institute.

Topics for Thought and Discussion

1. Why do you think that a science organization has an ethics statement? Is it more necessary for science than for other disciplines (like history, or literature, for example)?
2. Choose any one of the preceding precepts and evaluate it. Why is it necessary? What is it designed to control or contain? Is it specific to biology? To science?
3. Describe the form that the AIBS statement takes. Why is this appropriate to the purpose of this text?

Suggestions for Writing