

What is Public Engagement with Science (PES)?

Models of Informal Science Learning

Public Understanding of Science (PUS)

“ISE practices informed by PUS focus on increasing publics’ knowledge of scientific content and processes. This increase in knowledge is understood to occur via the transmission of scientific knowledge from the scientific community to individuals in society, often with the ISE as an intermediary.”

Public Engagement with Science (PES)

“PES in terms of informal science education refers to activities, events, or interactions characterized by mutual learning —not one-way transmission from experts to publics—among people of varied backgrounds, scientific expertise, and life experiences who articulate and discuss their perspectives, ideas, knowledge, and values.”

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Dimensions of PUS to PES

More PUS-like

Focus

- Natural and human made world
- Processes of science
- Societal & environmental impacts
- Relevant personal, community, and societal values
- Institutional priority or public policy

Public

- Watch and read
- Ask questions or interact
- Talk and share views
- Deliberate and problem solve together
- Produce recommendations

Experts

- Advise the ISE folks
- Make presentations to the public
- Work to improve communication skills
- Welcome and value public input
- Act on public input

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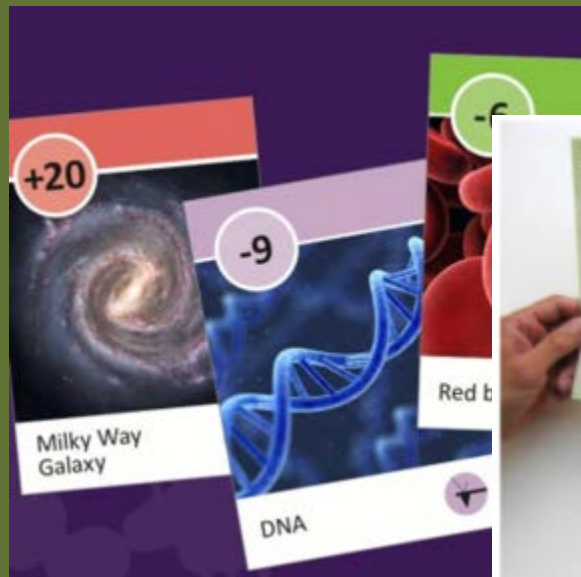
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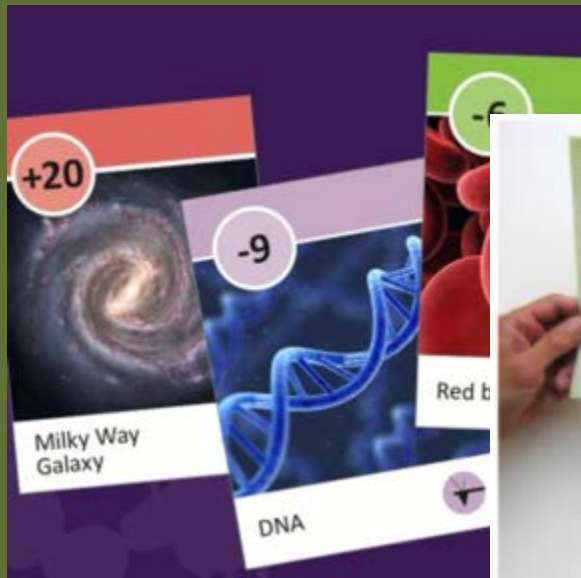


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PES Mechanisms and Perspectives

PES Mechanisms

“...Activities or experiences in which mutual learning occurs as part of the experience; people from varied backgrounds and perspectives listen, share, and build on what is being presented and learn from one another. Many of these experiences occur in person, for example at live dialogue events or forums...”

PES Perspectives

“...[Activities] explicitly address one or more PES goals but do not facilitate direct interaction between publics and scientists.... Public contributions might depend not on scientific knowledge but on knowledge drawn from life experience and personal and community values.”

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