

## **The Usefulness of Scientific Field Trips: What are High School Students' Attitudes towards Them?**

Aaron Wayne Willis

*Departmental Affiliation:* Education  
College of Arts and Sciences

The purpose of this study is to analyze students' attitudes toward scientific field trips. This study will evaluate whether students have a positive, negative, or neutral attitude toward going on these scientific field trips. Also, using this questionnaire, the data collected from four dimensions – the learning aspect, the social aspect, the adventure aspect, and the environmental aspect – will help measure the students' attitude toward scientific field trips. This study will encompass a questionnaire being passed out to multiple high school students from various grades and learning levels (regular, honors, AP, and IB). I will be unable to test one group myself because Chesterton High School is on block scheduling; I will therefore have a faculty member assist me in administering the test to that group of students.

### *Information about the Author:*

Aaron Willis is a junior biology and secondary education major from South Bend, IN. His school district rarely sponsored scientific field trips and when they did, many students complained about going. This is what led to his interest in the topic because he's wondering if it was just the geographical and racial distribution in his area that caused this negative attitude toward scientific field trips or if it is an adolescent cultural phenomenon in high school.

*Faculty Sponsor:* Dr. Del Gillispie

*Student Contact:* [aaron.willis@valpo.edu](mailto:aaron.willis@valpo.edu)