

Science and Public Policy

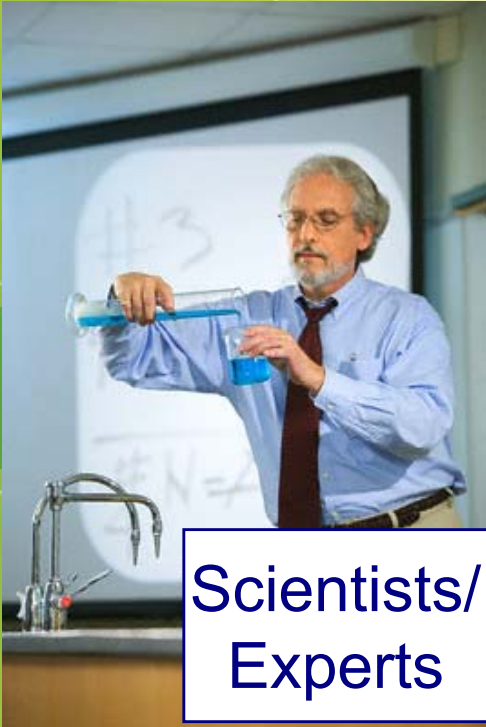
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How do science and politics interact?

- ⊕ Do scientists have a social responsibility to policy makers?
- ⊕ Do politicians suggest scientific agendas that are appropriate?



Public



Scientists/
Experts



Business



Politicians

Event Attracts Attention



- ⊕ Radio personality Don Imus makes racial slur about Rutgers University Team
- ⊕ Public outcry; his advertisers respond to public; he is fired

Public Dialogue

- ⊕ Argument: Behavior should be tolerated because Black rap music contains sexist and racist language



From Imus to Industry: The Business of Stereotypes and Degrading Images

- ⊕ US House
subcommittee on
commerce, trade
and consumer
protection
- ⊕ Congressman Rush
(Illinois) calls
hearing



Congressional Hearing



- ⊕ Panel 1 - CEOs from Universal, Viacom, Warner, Radio1, Take II Interactive
- ⊕ Panel 2- Rap music stars
- ⊕ Panel 3 - Academics and Advocates
- ⊕ Congresspersons, Public

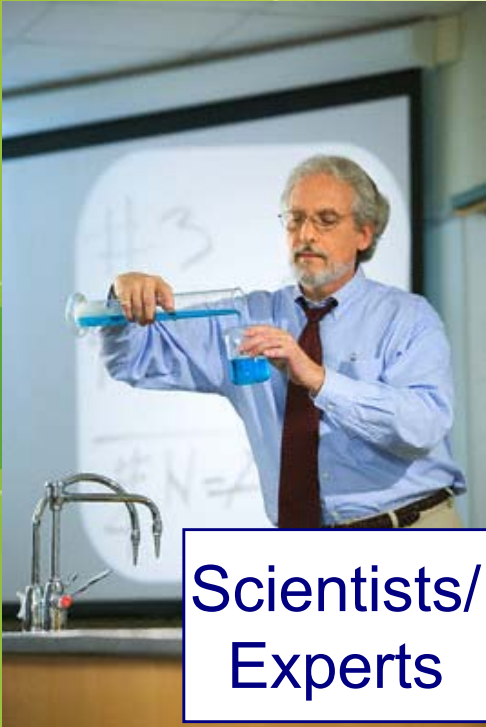
Sending Messages

- ⊕ Musicians/CEOs-Free Speech
- ⊕ Congress (Public) - Lyrics problematic. Can you do better?
- ⊕ Academics/Advocates-Damaging Effects, call for Governmental Help

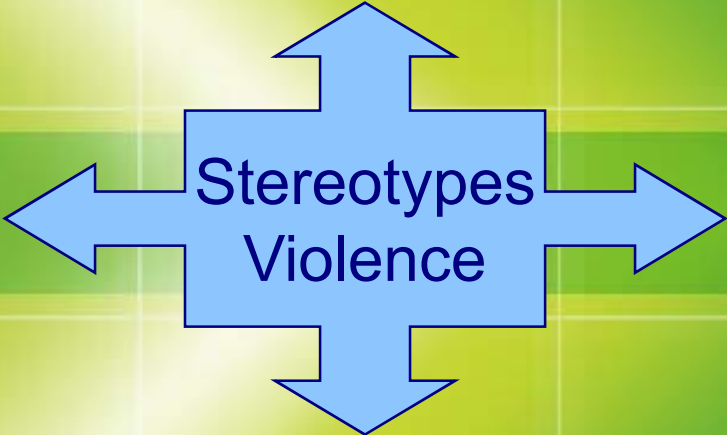




Public



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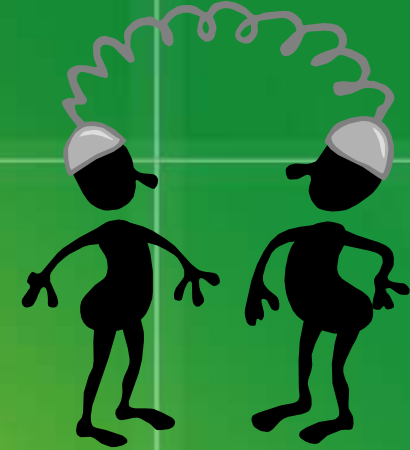


Business



Politicians

Issues of Perspective



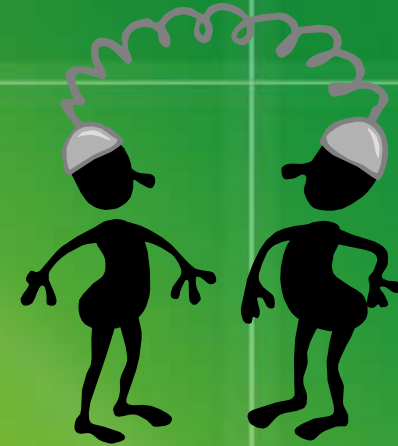
- ⊕ **Public understanding of research**
 - ⊕ Motivated to disbelieve behavior is damaging
 - ⊕ Media Psychology-Believe serious damage doesn't come from trivial causes
 - ⊕ Difficulty interpreting scientific concepts (like cause)
- ⊕ **Governmental understanding of research**
 - ⊕ Treat research findings like poll data
 - ⊕ Difficulty interpreting scientific concepts (like cause and effect)
- ⊕ **Business-Financial influence**
 - ⊕ Motivated by own financial interest

Issues



- ⊕ Public outcry drives interest in issue
 - ⊕ Events->Media Attention
- ⊕ Politicians
 - ⊕ Duty to Serve
 - ⊕ Get Elected
 - ⊕ \$ Business
- ⊕ Academics
 - ⊕ Advocacy
 - ⊕ Research Support

Conclusions



- ⊕ Common Issues
- ⊕ Different Perspectives
- ⊕ Good communication is critical
 - ⊕ Issue: Academics not trained as advocates
- ⊕ Interest from public, government, business, and experts
 - ⊕ Different agendas, but commonalities
 - ⊕ Media play a role