

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Identifying Testable Questions

Wk: _____

In science, questions drive experimentation. When an experiment is conducted, the purpose of the question is to narrow the focus and to identify the problem. Because not all questions can be answered through experimentation, a set of criteria has been established to determine if a question is testable.

Table 1.

Criteria	Action	
	If Yes...	If No...
a. Can the question be answered with a “yes” or “no”?	This question is not testable.	Go to b.
b. Is the question asking for an opinion?	This question is not testable.	Go to c.
c. Does the question require measurements from rulers, beakers, balances, thermometers, etc...?	Go to d.	This question is not testable.
d. Can the question be answered through observation and/or experimentation?	This is a testable question!	This question is not testable.

Directions: For each question, determine if it is testable by using Table 1. If the question is testable, place an “X” in the Yes column. If the question is not testable, place an “X” in the No column and explain why the question is not testable.

Question	Is it testable?	
	Yes	No, explain...
1. Do all bugs have blood?		
2. How does the amount of space affect the size of the Ailanthus plant?		
3. Which is more disgusting, bug blood or human blood?		
4. Which type of blood makes more students in this class flinch, bug blood or human blood?		
5. Is the Ailanthus plant healthier than other plants?		

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Question	Is it testable?	
	Yes	No, explain...
6. How long does it take for an Ailanthus seed to sprout?		
7. Can humans become ill if they come into contact with bug blood?		
8. Why is the Ailanthus a brighter color than most plants?		
9. In which season does the Ailanthus tree drop the most leaves?		
10. What is the effect of temperature on the thickness of bug blood?		

For the remaining rows, refer to pg. 1 in your binder. Copy the 3 questions you identified on the back of this assignment. Complete the remaining 2 columns.

If your question is testable, copy it below. If it is not, determine how to change the question in order to make it testable.

<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> Testable Questions	
1.	_____

2.	_____

3.	_____
