Questions to Ask Students About Notebook Entries

Another scientist/researcher/physicist/biologist/botanist/geologist/meteorologist/engineer might wonder/need to know/question . . .

In a laboratory/out in the field, a scientist might wonder/need to know/question . . .

- What did you actually observe? (i.e., What did you actually see rather than infer?)
- What are the important details that other scientists would need to know? Did you include all of them?
- Have you recorded/reported the observations/data/test results/evidence accurately and honestly?
- Does what you have written agree with the observations/data you recorded in your notes/data table/graph?
- What did you observe that makes you think that?
- What evidence do you have to support your idea/thinking?
- Do your test results support your prediction? If not, how has your thinking changed because of your test results?
- How is what you have reported similar to/different from . . .?
- How could you explain your thinking/results in a different way?
- What do you think could have happened during the investigation to cause those inconsistent/inconclusive data? (i.e., Which variable or variables might not have been kept the same/controlled? Which part of the test might not have been fair/controlled?)
- What question would you like to investigate next?

Scientists reread their entries to be sure everything they have written is clear, accurate, and honest.

- When you reread your entry, what (if anything) do you need to add/change to make this entry more clear and/or accurate?