The 4 Ground Rules of Critique in Science

These are the four basic rules we will follow when we critique arguments and reports

1. Be Respectful

Critique is how we identify errors or flaws in our ideas. In science, we always critique ideas, not people. When we are critiquing ideas, we never say hurtful things.

2. Be specific

Even if you are being respectful, you are not doing anybody any favors if you are vague. In science, we always make specific and detailed comments about what needs to be improved.

3. Be Helpful

Critique is more than identifying a flaw or error in an idea; it is also about offering suggestions for ways to improve it. In science, we always offer specific and detailed suggestions for how to make things better.

4. Use Scientific Criteria

Scientists use empirical and theoretical criteria to determine if an idea is valid or acceptable. In science, we always use scientific criteria to critique arguments and reports.