13 Characteristics of Language with a Scientific Attitude

1. **Facts** are clearly distinguished from **non-facts** (assumptions, beliefs, opinions, inferences, etc.).

2. **Multi-valued evaluations** more often recognized than simplistic either/or, right/wrong, black/white two-valued evaluations.

3. **Multiple causes** for events, circumstances, behaviors, etc., are investigated and considered ... not ‘the’ cause.

4. Role of the observer is not overlooked ... “to-me-ness” is recognized in statements, opinions, etc.

5. **Operational definitions** preferred over simple classifications; what something or someone does rather that what one is.

6. Avoid **objectifying (or reifying) processes** and inanimate abstractions ... the weather, the economy, science, security, terrorism ... 

7. Emphasize importance of **differences, distinctions, and uniqueness** — even among apparent similarities.

8. **Every ‘thing’ changes all the time** even when changes are not apparent ... including people.

9. Limit **absolute, all-inclusive terms** such as: all, none, absolutely, certainly, without a doubt, best ever, like no other, exact same.

10. Our knowledge/beliefs about anything is **incomplete**, therefore our language should be tentative, recognize uncertainty, open to change when new knowledge arrives.

11. Take responsibility for the **outputs of your own nervous system**: ... It made me so mad ... she hurt my feelings ...; actor/action/acted upon.

12. Don’t forget that there is **always more** data, more information, more sensory inputs ... you’ll never have “all the facts;” there’s always **etc.**

13. Avoid perpetuating pre-scientific myths and superstitions.