

**“Science Is Real” (They Might Be Giants, 2009)**

**Argument-Based Questions**

**Directions: Individually or with a partner, students should respond to each of the following argument-based questions. Then, if working with a partner, pairs should be matched with other pairs and share and discuss their responses, noting differences. If working alone, students should either be paired for a share and discuss activity, or the teacher should lead a full-class short seminar or discussion.**

**1. What do you think Rudolph Carnap means by the phrase “direct experience” in his definition of science?**

**2. How would you paraphrase (meaning: put it in your own words) the clause (meaning: long phrase, including a verb) “controlled by experimental verification”?**

**3. How is the phrase “science is real” parallel or equivalent to Carnap’s definition?**

**4. How would you summarize the main idea – in other words, the overall position or thesis – of this They Might Be Giants song?**

**5. What evidence does the song have that science is real, and what do you think is the best evidence? Why?**

**6. What does the song contrast science with? What does the song say about this contrasting way of understanding the world?**

**7. Identify two uses of repetition in the song. What effect do you think the use of repetition has?**

**8. What happens to a scientific theory, in the song’s description of the scientific method? When is a scientific theory proven true?**

**9. How does the song use assonance (vowel rhyming) near the end, and what point does this assonance have?**

**10. Why do you think They Might Be Giants felt motivated to write and produce this song?**