Writing Testable Questions

Example 1: Does adding fertilizer to soil make plants grow taller?
   a. This is a testable question.
   b. This question has a cause (adding fertilizer to soil) and an effect (how tall a plant grows).
   c. It could be rewritten as “What is the effect of adding fertilizer to soil on a how tall a plant grows?”
   d. This is a good experiment because it is based on factual data.

Example 2: Can the type of music a person listens to cause good or bad moods?
   a. This is a testable question.
   b. This question has a cause (type of music) and effect (good or bad mood).
   c. It could be rewritten as “What is the effect of the type of music on a person’s mood?”
   d. This would NOT be a good science experiment unless you made a rating scale because it is based on a person’s opinion.

Example 3: Was Albert Einstein the greatest Physicist of the 20th century?
   a. This is NOT testable question.
   b. There is no cause and effect.
   c. It cannot be rewritten in the correct format.
   d. This would not make a good question because this is personal opinion and my idea of “greatest” might be different from someone else’s.

1. Are cats better pets than dogs?
   a. Is this a testable question? __________
   b. Why or why not?
   c. If this is a testable question, then rewrite the question in the correct format:

2. Which type of ball will bounce higher when dropped, a tennis ball or a golf ball?
   a. Is this a testable question? __________
   b. Why or why not?
   c. If this is a testable question, then rewrite the question in the correct format:

3. Do M&Ms melt faster in your mouth or faster in your hand?
   a. Is this a testable question? __________
   b. Why or why not?
   c. If this is a testable question, then rewrite the question in the correct format:
4. Should we all volunteer our time at an animal shelter?
   a. Is this a testable question? __________
   b. Why or why not?
   c. If this is a testable question, then rewrite the question in the correct format:

5. Which ingredient type in a cake makes it rise the most?
   a. Is this a testable question? __________
   b. Why or why not?
   c. If this is a testable question, then rewrite the question in the correct format:

6. How is bug blood different from human blood?
   a. Is this a testable question? __________
   b. Why or why not?
   c. If this is a testable question, then rewrite the question in the correct format:

7. What happens to the growth rate of plants when I play music to them?
   a. Is this a testable question? __________
   b. Why or why not?
   c. If this is a testable question, then rewrite the question in the correct format:

8. Why does bright sunlight make some people sneeze?
   a. Is this a testable question? __________
   b. Why or why not?
   c. If this is a testable question, then rewrite the question in the correct format:

9. Do smells affect people’s moods?
   a. Is this a testable question? __________
   b. Why or why not?
   c. If this is a testable question, then rewrite the question in the correct format: