

# Why Teach Physics?

Some thoughts for justification of inclusion  
of physics in the school curriculum.

Physics 310

READINGS FOR TEACHING HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICS  
Illinois State University Physics Teacher Education Program  
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1. Knowledge needed to control and exploit the forces of nature (proves a sense of empowerment)
2. to satisfy human curiosity
3. to understand the body of knowledge we call science so that we may choose between good and bad applications
4. to become aware of nature and its limitations
5. helps to avoid alienation from the technological world
6. since science is a predominant force, it helps understand our world
7. helps us to distinguish between fact and fiction (knowledge is power)
8. helps us to lead healthier and safer lives
9. promotes a scientific attitude
10. provides us with a competent work force to maintain economic growth
11. study builds problem-solving skills
12. study illustrates the greatest of human accomplishment
13. study generates openness to new ideas
14. physics provides the simplest of systems to study
15. physics provides content relevant to other fields of study
16. physics has shaped history
17. physics is important to the educated person - part of liberal education
18. provides common basis for discussion and understandings
19. helps us to understand our own limitations and capabilities
20. assists us in our stewardship of planet earth
21. helps us gain insight into how people have explained the physical world
22. study helps us to become better consumers - we won't get ripped off by outlandish claims
23. helps us see that nature is inherently comprehensible
24. helps us become masters of our own fate
25. helps us understand and relate to technological applications of physics
26. physics provides numerous examples of simple systems to study with clear underlying principles that are broadly applicable, and free from all the complexities of biology and chemistry