**“The Eye of Nye: Astrobiology” Video**

1. What is the study of ***astrobiology?***
2. What sort of signs or evidences of extraterrestrial life are scientists looking for?
3. Why do scientists have reason to believe that there is life on other planets?
4. What are ***“extremophiles*”** and where have they been found? Why might they give scientists reason to believe that life on other planets could exist?
5. What kind of micro-organisms does Dr. Chris McKay believe we should be looking for on Mars and why does he believe these organisms are important? What other characteristics of alien life does Dr. McKay we should also be looking for?
6. What sort of clues do astronomers look for when trying to identify if distant stars have different planets? Why are astrobiologists so interested in finding distant planets in their quest to find alien life?
7. What significant findings came from the Opportunity mission to Mars?

***So What Do You Think?***

***Directions: Answer each of the following questions in at least one THOUGHTFUL PARAGRAPH. Be sure to include details, examples, quotes from the video, facts, or any other type of EVIDENCE to back up your claims. Also, begin your paragraphs with a strong topic sentence and conclude it with a strong closing sentence. Remember, you too are scientists, so you want to use the language that the scientists are using and present your ideas on the following with formal, academic writing.***

1. Now that you’ve watched the video and have learned a little bit more about what sort of clues scientists are looking for in their quest to find alien life, what do you think? Do you think alien life could exist? What kind of life do you think could exist out there? Do you think the way scientists’ are currently approaching their search (i.e. the clues that they are looking for) are well reasoned?
2. Do you think the quest to find alien life is a worthwhile and important one? Should we be spending so much time and money searching for alien life? Why or why not?
3. At the end of the video, Dr. Debra Fischer states, *“Finding evidence for life on another world would just be shattering, I think, to a lot of people. We would have to revaluate our place in the universe. We would have to unite globally and understand that we are one people.”* Do you agree or disagree with Dr. Fischer? How would finding life on another planet impact our lives, our society and our world as we know and understand it? How would such a finding impact a person, spiritually and otherwise?