



# Looking Through the Lens



Focusing on science content, pedagogy, and topics for elementary teachers

***Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program***

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## Why Teach Science?

When reading through the daily newspaper **SCIENCE** always screams out at me. For instance take the weather. What causes a place that usually enjoys cool weather to suddenly be hot?

How about the coral reefs in the Indian Ocean? They have been affected by the tsunami that occurred two years ago. Now the coral reefs are having difficulty surviving, so what impact will it have on other sea life? The coral reefs in the Caribbean also are having difficulty surviving due to changes in pH levels in the ocean. Remember studying pH in science? Yes, there was a reason for learning that.

Another headline we are all aware of is the rise in gasoline prices. What other alternatives can be used? Who will be affected by this in the long run? And will they even know where to begin to deal with these issues if they do not have the science knowledge to draw from?

And right in our own backyard—water. Will we have enough for everyone? And if we don't, what needs to be done to solve this problem? The students in our community need science to give them a level playing field to deal with the issues that will immediately impact them.

So why teach science? Our students need the opportunity to be given a fair chance to be on par with others in our global community. From a young age children come into our classrooms with questions, curiosity, and a strong desire to learn about their world. Through science their questions and curiosities have a chance to be answered and quenched as well as provide background knowledge for what they write and what and how they connect to the printed word. Another factor to consider for teaching science is that in the spring of 2008 the Nevada High School Proficiency Exam will be administered to high school sophomores. So as the school year begins think about how you will satisfy your students' thirst for science.

