



Criteria for an authentic rendering of indigenous science include:

1. The indigenous scientist is an integral part of the research process and there is a defined process for insuring this integrity.
2. All of nature is intelligent and alive, thus an active research partner. We do not act on nature, rather we communicate and work with nature.
3. Compared to western time/space notions, indigenous science collapses time and space, with the result that our fields of inquiry and participation extend into and overlap with past and present.
4. Indigenous science is concerned with relationships, we try to understand and complete our relationships with all living things.
5. Indigenous science is holistic, drawing on all the senses, including the spiritual and psychic.
6. The end point of an indigenous scientific process is a known and recognized place. This point of balance referred to by my own tribe, as the Great Peace, is both peaceful and electrifyingly alive. In the joy of exact balance, creativity occurs, that is why we can think of our way of knowing as a life science.
7. The purpose of indigenous science is to maintain balance.

8. When we reach the moment/place of balance we do not believe that we have transcended, we say that we are normal! Always remain embodied in the natural world.
9. Humor is a critical ingredient of all our truth seeking, even in the most powerful rituals. This is true because humor balances gravity.