Using the Scientific Method to Conduct Evaluations

@dearlyebony

As an educational diagnostician, I use the scientific method to conduct valid thorough evaluations to determine eligibility for special education.

Scientific Method	
1. Statement of the Problem	What is to be evaluated?
2. Literature Review	What do we already know about the student?
3. Development of Hypothesis of Research Objectives	What do we expect to find out or what do we want to know?
4. Choose Research Design	How will we evaluate it?
5. Data Collection	What information will we collect?
6. Data Analysis an Interpretation	What does this information tell us and what does it mean?
7. Development of Conclusion/Results	What did we learn? Did they meet eligibility? Did that not meet eligibility? What recommendations will be made?
8. Posing New Research Question	Have new questions emerged that require research?

Using the scientific method can prevent the influence of bias allowing the evaluator to focus on the data/facts. Bias results from personal beliefs and experiences.

The scientific method provides an objective and standard approach to conducting research and writing reports. As evaluation professionals, we must report the facts and limit the influence of both preconceived notions and personal opinions.