

Issues to Consider While Watching *Particle Fever*

1. Keeping in mind John Ziman's point that "scientific research is a social activity," think about the **various roles that the physicists occupy** in the search for the Higgs Boson and how these roles differ, e.g., between theorists and experimentalists.
2. Pay attention to **how the scientists talk about the scientific problem** and how they **reason about the physics**. Does everyone characterize it the same way? Art and creativity are invoked, but what about logic and deduction?
3. On the assumption that science is an activity, think about how the **actual physical activity of conducting science** varies among the scientists. Does this affect how they **see and conceptualize** problems?
4. Pay attention to the importance of **marketing the science** to the public.
5. Pay attention to the **role of data** and the **importance of statistical analysis** to searching for the Higgs Boson and how this relates to the concept of **discovery**.
6. Think about the **stakes involved** for the scientists searching for the Higgs and how the results potentially impact their careers. Does this affect the manner in which they think about or conduct scientific inquiry?
7. Think about the search for the Higgs Boson in terms of scientists making a discovery that will allow them to **stop thinking about** a particular scientific problem.