**IPC – Chapter 1 – Section 1 – Vocabulary**

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**scientific methods –** pattern of investigation procedures that can include stating a problem, forming a hypothesis, researching and gathering information, testing a hypothesis, analyzing data, and drawing conclusions.

**hypothesis –** possible explanation for a problem using what is known and what is observed.

**experiment –** organized procedure for testing a hypothesis; tests the effect of one thing on another under controlled conditions.

**variable –** quantity that can have more than a single value, can cause a change in the results of an experiment

**dependent variable –** factor that changes as a result of changes in the other variables.

**independent variable –** factor that, as it changes, affects the measure of another variable

**constant –** in an experiment, a variable that does not change.

**control –** standard used for comparison of test results in an experiment.

**bias –** occurs when a scientist’s expectations change how the results of an experiment are viewed.

**model –** can be used to represent an idea, object, or event that is too big, too small, too complex, or too dangerous to observe or test directly.

**scientific theory –** explanation of things or events based on knowledge gained from many observations and investigations.

**scientific law –** statement about what happens in nature that seems to be true all of the time; does not explain why or how something happens.