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## Reflection Paper

The interview with Doug Hallgren was very interesting on a number of levels. One thing that I learned from Mr. Hallgren is that a career in science can be anything but boring. Mr. Hallgren's career spanned so many different areas that its hard to believe one man did it all. Among his many experiments, he dealt with the space program and star dust, cigarette filters, and early work with microscopy. I found it amazing that he was able to use his knowledge in so many different areas and really seemed to enjoy his work.

I think that the most significant part of our interview was his advice to always remember and keep good records of the things that you do throughout your life because you never know what will become of them in the end. His experimental data on the effectiveness for cigarette filters popped up forty years after he did it when many of the consumers had been diagnosed with mesothelioma after having smoked those specific cigartettes for decades. Mr. Hallgren served as an expert witness in a number of trials to present his data from the experiments that he conducted forty years previously. I think that it is amazing that something he had done so long ago turned out to be very important later on in life.

Mr. Hallgren also discussed several of his experiments dealing with "star dust," which in actuality is just microscopic meteor particles. He told us how he was part of the group that made the first human made item that was taken up to space, left there, and retrieved several years later. It is so odd to think of there ever being a time when space travel wasn't an ordinary thing but something that was once science fiction. It really made me wonder what will come to pass throughout my lifetime. It seems hard to

believe that there will ever be any more scientific advances like that nowadays. Science has taken us so far that I almost feel like we know almost all there is to know. Talking to Mr. Hallgren, however, made me rethink some of my opinions. Speaking with someone who is clearly not of my generation helped me to see how much can be achieved by science in just one lifetime. I laugh about it now, but there may be a day when I see flying cars, and teleportation devices, and time travel as a science fiction novelty may very well become a reality. Who's to say what kind of discoveries will be made in the next century, it's a mystery, and that is why science has such an appeal to people all over the world.