

The Doctoral Student's Candidacy Examination

The molecular biologist said she wanted to know exactly what he was going to do.

The systematist said, "Please specify the precise techniques you plan to employ."

The mathematical botanist's predilections:
"Present a neat and well-defined hypothesis
with neat and well-defined predictions
and neat and well-defined tests
leading to neat and well-defined conclusions."

The field biologist had his own special quirk:
he said the fellow should simply marshal his
very best common sense, and then get the hell
out there in the field and simply go to work.

There's only one rule in science, mate,
And that one is simple: "*Just get it straight!*"