

the project to be “all in good fun” (McDonough 50). Citation with page number of quotation.

Public appreciation for science was, in fact, what made Sagan the

“superstar scientist” that we hear of today. His ability to portray complex

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science as attainable was what made him such a sensational figure. The greatest example of this was his *Cosmos Series*. In this thirteen part television series Sagan presented and explained a large variety of scientific topics ranging from the origin of life to our place in the universe. It was the most watched series in the United States for ten years after its release in 1980 (Cohen).

Another work of his similar to *Cosmos* was his book *Pale Blue Dot*. In the book Sagan instills a sense of perspective and wonder into man's position in the universe (Carl Sagan - *Pale Blue Dot*). This is one of the most widely known works by Sagan and many believe it to be his greatest work.

Along with this interest and promotion of science, Sagan also tried to push people away from pseudo science. His work in exobiology made it inevitable that he would eventually have to address the growing belief in UFOs that was so prevalent in the 60s era. Sagan investigated and acknowledged extraordinary claims but remained extremely skeptical in his approach. He believed that investigating and disproving popular paranormal claims would raise scientific awareness (Morrison, Sagan 30).

Sagan was a strong proponent of ending the arms race. This may have been motivated in part by his study of exobiology. While considering the probability of other life in the universe he surmised that industrial societies would bring about their own extinction rather quickly (Morrison, Carl 57).

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Some of Sagan's ideas were not as publicly displayed. In 1971 Sagan published an essay considering the use of marijuana under the pseudonym of Mr. X. He had had experience with the drug, and claimed that it had provided him with valuable life experience. He summarized his opinion by saying:

When cannabis is legalized, I hope to see this ratio as one of the parameters printed on the pack. I hope that time isn't too distant; the illegality of cannabis is outrageous, an impediment to full utilization of a drug which helps produce the serenity and insight, sensitivity and fellowship so desperately needed in this increasingly mad and dangerous world (Sagan).

All of these ideas and opinions together constitute a consistent message. Sagan was an example of what a scientist and intellectual should be. He was a rational, skeptical and curious individual whose voice is severely underrepresented in all aspects of culture and life today. His work in promoting scientific literacy has had lasting affects and contributed greatly to the collective human knowledge. He will be remembered as an intelligent and thoughtful scientist and human being.

If a quotation runs more than 4 lines indent an additional ½ inch with no quotation marks.

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Include the medium of each source: **print, web, CD, DVD, television, radio, film, e-mail, film, performance** etc.

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