Schools:

The postdoc on a genomic research project wants to involve local schools in their research project by holding a tournament for the best solution to one of the project's research questions. They will have to organise the competition themselves, using time allocated to the research project. They feel it will promote the project in the community and make school children more interested in science.

1. What challenges will this postdoc face to make this a reality?
2. What other benefits could this activity have?
3. Do you think these kind of activities area good use of researchers' time?

Data:

Jane has done several experiments which have had negative results and do not help progress her overall project further. However, she feels the results, protocol, and data are still interesting. She does not want to just shelve the work but she is not sure what to do with it. A friend says she should keep it private in case she can use it for publications later.

1. Do you think the friend is right?
2. Is there another solution that is more 'open'? What else could be done with the data?
3. Would you like to see more negative results published? Why/why not?
4. Would you like to have access to other researchers' protocols and data?

Publishing:

John has been trying to publish some exciting results from his work. However, one journal has rejected the paper and another has not gotten back to him. He hears that another lab is also preparing to publish findings in a similar area. Another researcher suggests that he publish the paper as a preprint so that it would be out first, but his PI is a bit unsure if this is a good idea.

1. Do you think he should use preprints?
2. What are the advantages or disadvantages of this approach?
3. Have you ever used preprints? What do you think about them?