

Clinical Trials and Placebo

Strand A – Grades 9 -12

Role Instructions

Test Volunteers

Role:

- You WON'T know which jug is which.
- You WON'T know if you're in the **test group** or the **control group**.
- Only talk to the researchers (never head researchers).
- Follow ALL instructions from the researchers (ex. Don't drink the water before they tell you to).

Directions:

- 1. When instructed by the head researchers, give each test volunteer a number (ex. 1-25). Record this and return it to the head researchers.
- 2. When instructed by the head researchers, give each volunteer a volunteer record and make sure that they record their number correctly.
- 3. Bring samples to the volunteers. **Double check that the correct sample** is going to the correct volunteer.
- 4. When instructed by the head researchers, tell the volunteers to drink their samples.
- 5. Have the volunteers complete their volunteer record. Make sure that they do it correctly.
- 6. Return completed volunteer records to the head researchers.

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Head Researchers

Role:

- Know which jug contains tap water and which contains bottled water.
- Only talk to researchers (never test volunteers).
- Split up the groups randomly.
- Make sure a 'Control Group' exists.
- Tally up the results.

Directions:

- 1. Find out from your teacher which jug contains tap water and which contains bottled water.
- 2. Have your researchers give your test volunteers numbers (ex. 1-25) and hand out one volunteer record to each test volunteer.
- 3. Organize Test Groups:

Without telling or moving <u>anyone</u>, secretly split the test volunteers into two groups. Put half in the test group and half in the control group. Decide this **randomly.**

4. Set Up Your Samples:

Each person in the test group should get a cup with water from jug "A" and a cup with water from jug "B". These cups should be properly labeled.

Each person in the control group also gets two cups labeled "A" and "B" but secretly fill **both** cups from the same jug (record whether it was jug A or B).

As you prepare samples, have them brought to the correct test volunteer by your researchers.

- 5. Instruct your researchers to tell the test volunteers to drink and record their responses on their volunteer record. Have the records collected and brought to you.
- 6. Tally the results.
- 7. Inform the test volunteers what group they were in, reveal which jug was which, and report the results.

Researchers

Role:

- You WON'T know which jug is which.
- Take instructions from Head Researchers and administer the test for volunteers.
- Collect results from volunteers and pass on to head researchers.

Directions:

- 1. When instructed by the Head Researchers, give each test volunteer a number (ex. 1-25). Record this and return it to the head researchers.
- 2. When instructed by the head researchers, give each volunteer a volunteer record and make sure that they record their number correctly.
- 3. Bring samples to the volunteers. **Double check that the correct sample is going to the correct volunteer.**
- 4. When instructed by the head researchers, tell the volunteers to drink their samples.
- 5. Have the volunteers complete their Volunteer Record. Make sure that they do it correctly.
- 6. Return completed Volunteer Records to the head researchers.