

Senses Lab – helping us use the scientific method...

Problem: Is there a measurable difference between the rate at which one can process sensory information obtained visually, orally, and tactually?

Hypothesis: If _____,
Then _____.

Procedure:

Visual

1. Obtain a meter stick.
2. Hold a meter stick vertically with the “0 cm” end down and approximately at waist height. (The 100 cm end would be high in the air)
3. Have your partner hold their writing hand with their thumb and forefinger held 10 cm apart with the bottom 20cm line of the meter stick even with the TOP of the index finger.
4. Prepare to drop the meter stick.
5. Drop the meter stick and have your partner try to catch it as quickly as she can. Don’t give any verbal warnings of when you will drop it. Record the distance the meter stick fell before your partner grabbed it by recording the measurement line that is aligned with the TOP of your index finger, and subtracting 20cm.
6. Repeat this procedure until you have recorded ten data points. Then, switch positions and repeat with your partner.

Auditory

1. Repeat the procedure above, but this time have the “catcher” close his or her eyes. The dropper indicates when the meter stick is dropped by saying “Now”. It is very important that the dropper says, “Now” exactly when the meter stick is dropped.
2. Repeat the exercise for the other partner.

Tactile

1. This time, the catcher closes his or her eyes again, and the dropper indicates the meter stick is being dropped by tapping the catcher on the shoulder.
2. Repeat the exercise for the other partner.

Data

Visual Data		Auditory Data		Tactile Data	
Person 1	Person 2	Person 1	Person 2	Person 1	Person 2
Ave:	Ave:	Ave:	Ave:	Ave:	Ave: