



Handout 1 - Tactile Listening Experiments

In these experiments, you will be examining the ways music can be experienced in a tactile way - through touch rather than through hearing.

Experiment 1

1. In this experiment, you will be answering the **research question**, “how do various materials react differently to soundwaves?”
2. List the materials you have available at your station in the chart below, under “Material.” Then, rank the materials by which you think will respond the most strongly to sound waves. Rank objects you think will have the strongest vibration “1,” and then proceed from there (“2” would have the second strongest vibration, etc.) This will be your **hypothesis**.

| Material | Rank (Hypothesis) | Observations | Rank (Result) |
|----------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | | |

3. Go to the **<http://bit.ly/TactileExperiment1>** to locate the song you will be using for this experiment. Place each material, one at a time, a few inches away from the speaker, and play the video at a loud volume. Record your observations on how you experience the sound through each material in the “observations” tab. How well can you feel the vibrations for each object?
4. Once the experiment is finished, rank the materials again, based on your observations. How close was your **hypothesis** to your **results**?



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Experiment 2

1. In this experiment, you will be answering the **research question**, “do different genres of music produce different tactile results?” In other words, do different musical genres feel different?
2. Create a playlist of different songs you like. Based on the title, artist, and what you may know about each song, try to hypothesize what each song might feel like. Consider words like, “strong,” “weak,” “rhythmic,” or “buzzing.” Write the name of each song under the “song” section of the chart, and your hypothesis in the hypothesis section.

| Song | Hypothesis (what will it feel like?) | Observations (what did it feel like?) | Results (was the hypothesis right?) |
|------|---|--|--|
| | | | |

3. Choose the material you discovered produced the best results in experiment one. Hold it in front of the speaker, and play a part of each song (30 seconds is appropriate), then make your observations in the Observations section.
4. In the Results section, note whether you feel your hypothesis was accurate or not accurate.