

# Analyzing Experimental Design

## Background

To study the effects of common substances on the heart rate of a tiny aquatic organism known as *Daphnia*, students placed a *Daphnia* in a drop of water on a glass slide. The students then added 1 or more drops of a test substance dissolved in water to the slide, waited 10 seconds, then counted heart beats for 10 seconds. The students used a clean slide and a new *Daphnia* each time. Their data table is shown below.

Heart Rate of <i>Daphnia</i> in Different Solutions	
Substance tested	Heart rate (beats per minute)
None	58
Coffee	65
Ethanol	50

## Analysis

1. **Identify** the dependent and independent variables in the experiment.

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2. **Identify** the experimental groups in the experiment.

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3. **Propose** a liquid that could be used for a control group.

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4. **Evaluate** how the instructions could be changed to improve the design of the experiment.

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**Analyzing Experimental Design** *continued*

**5. Critical Thinking**

**Applying Information** Design an experiment that students can perform to verify the prediction that coffee will increase heart rate in *Daphnia*.

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