

LAB: Measuring Reaction Time

Date _____

Last Name _____, First _____ period ____

Question: *Can a person react to catch a falling meter stick faster using visual clues or auditory clues?*

Hypothesis:

Materials: you , a partner, classmates, and a meter stick

Procedure:

Part 1 Using Visual Clues

1. Have your partner hold a meter stick with the zero end about 50 cm above the table.
2. Get ready to catch the meter stick by positioning the top of your thumb and forefinger just at the zero position.
3. Your partner should drop the meter stick without warning. Using your thumb and forefinger only (no other part of your hand) catch the meter stick as soon as you can. Record the distance in centimeters that the meter stick fell. Conduct 3 trials.
4. Switch roles with your partner and repeat the experiment.

Part 2 Using Auditory Clues

5. Repeat steps 1 -4 but this time the person catching the meter stick must close their eyes. The person dropping the meter stick will signal the drop by saying “ now!”

Data:

Table 1: Reaction distance using visual clues

Trial	Your distance (cm)	Your partners distance (cm)
1		
2		
3		
Total		
Average		

Table 2: Reaction distance using auditory clues

Trial	Your distance (cm)	Your partners distance (cm)
1		
2		
3		
Total		
Average		

Conclusion:

1. In this lab, what is the stimulus in part 1? _____
2. What is the stimulus in part 2 _____
3. Based on your results, do people react quicker to visual or auditory clues in this activity? Is this result consistent with the results of other groups in your class? Explain. _____

