

Taste Test Activity Details

Timeline:

- 0 min. - Begin the class talking about whatever was going on in the previous class period as if that is the intent of the current class. Hand out science books and recover homeworks, quizzes, exams.
- 5 min. - Receive a fictitious phone call from a representative (a friend might work there) from CitraMild and act as if you are excited to receive this phone call. You have just gotten permission from CitraMild to perform the taste test involving a new additive that is supposed to make products taste better. The conversation could go something like:
- Hello?*
Yeah, this is _____
Oh, that great news! Are you sure? Man, the kids will be so excited about this.
Thanks so much and I'll let you know how things go.
Take care, bye.
- Explain to the class that they just got an opportunity to participate in a taste test that you've been waiting weeks to perform but you were waiting to get the ok from the company/friend.
- 10 min. - Have the students hand in any papers and fill out the consent form. It might be a good idea for those not participating to record what they see in the science journal or work on their homework. Explain to the students that if they are at all allergic to sugar or orange juice that they shouldn't participate. Go into another room and pretend to be putting things together as you don't want to rush out with the samples as it would appear staged.
- 15-30 min. - Hand out the samples and the questionnaires and have the students perform the taste test once all the students have all the samples; make sure they take as long as possible. Let them know that they are required to taste a cup and then record anything that pops into their head about the test and preferences/dislikes.
- 30 min. - Receive another fictitious call from CitraMild regarding the safety of the study and that all testing should stop. During the phone call, tell the students to stop what they are doing and push back from the table and sit quietly.

The conversation might go like this...

Hello?

*Yeah, hi Mike. We're doing it right now. What do you mean? Are you **serious!***

TO KIDS: GUYS, STOP WHAT YOU ARE DOING IMMEDIATELY AND PUSH BACK FROM YOUR TABLES!

*Did **you** know this information about the mice when you gave me the ok? So what do you want me to do? Unbelievable!*

Alright, get here as soon as you can. Bye!

Finish the phone call and explain the issues while putting on your goggles and gloves. Proceed to carefully remove the samples and **pour them into another storage container** that "the company will use the fluids to investigate". Tell the students that they should immediately record any feelings or symptoms in their journal as it might be used in the future if they need medical attention or for legal reasons. Let them know that you were "assured" that the additives were safe for humans but that the FDA told CitraMild to stop testing because a large number of mice are showing signs of cancer. Tell them to write

everything down. **Ask them if they would have participated if they knew that the additives were causing cancer in mice and to write their responses down.**

35-40 min. - Let the students know that it was all fictitious and have them record their feelings in their journal immediately. Tell them what was in the cups and that they have nothing to worry about and that they can now go back to their tables. Explain that if it had been a real test that they would have had gotten permission from their parents and they would have been informed of any known risks. It's important to note that these regulations haven't always been around and they are only around because enough people complained so that rules and regulations were created.

40 -55 min. - Discuss the relevancy of what they just went through. Company testing, liability issues, and health complications to name a few. Discuss a recent article involving drug testing or some other type of testing and the content within. Assign the homework sheet.

Questions: Do companies really behave this way? Competitive marketplace, pressures, research, money at stake, etc.

Do companies have your best interest/welfare at heart? If yes, why? If not, why not?

Big tobacco!

Nino's To Do List:

- 1) take attendance
- 2) Hand grade sheets to the **1st hour class** and let them know that they get extra credit if it comes back the next day, Wednesday, otherwise it is due on Thursday.

Collect the grade sheets **from all the other classes** and be sure to record the date received.

- 3) Collect the “animal packets” **from all classes** and grade if you have time or have the sub grade if s/he has time.