

**Title of Resource** Activity: Identifying Operational Definitions, IVs, DVs, and Hypotheses

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**Brief Description:** This activity practices the identification of independent and dependant variables. In addition, it has students practice forming operational definitions and hypotheses

**Keywords:** Operational Definitions; Identifying Independent and Dependent Variables

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**Additional Information:**

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**Instructors:** This activity helps student work with the concepts of operational definitions, independent and dependent variables, and hypotheses. Give the following handout to students as practice in class (individually or in small groups) or as a homework assignment. The scenarios were designed to be general enough for students to vary in their operational definitions and hypotheses. Have the class share their answers in a group setting so the individual variation in answers can be discussed.

## Operational Definitions, IVs, DVs, & Hypotheses

**Directions:** Identify the independent variable (IV) and the dependent variable (DV) for each of the research scenarios and give the operational definition for each. Additionally, provide a hypothesis for each research scenario.

1. A developmental psychologist is interested in how the activity level of four-year-olds is affected by viewing a 30-minute video of the SpongeBob SquarePants or a 30-minute video of Sid the Science Kid.

IV: \_\_\_\_\_

Operational definition of IV: \_\_\_\_\_

DV: \_\_\_\_\_

Operational definition of DV: \_\_\_\_\_

Hypothesis: \_\_\_\_\_

2. A psychiatrist wants to test the impact of a new drug designed to increase the ability of teenagers with ADHD to take accurate notes in class.

IV: \_\_\_\_\_

Operational definition of IV: \_\_\_\_\_

DV: \_\_\_\_\_

Operational definition of DV: \_\_\_\_\_

Hypothesis: \_\_\_\_\_

3. A biopsychologist wants to know whether exposure to testosterone in adult female rats increases their aggressive behavior.

IV: \_\_\_\_\_

Operational definition of IV: \_\_\_\_\_

DV: \_\_\_\_\_

Operational definition of DV: \_\_\_\_\_

Hypothesis: \_\_\_\_\_

4. An industrial/organizational psychologist believes that cooling the temperature of a room may have an impact on productivity of workers on an assembly line.

IV: \_\_\_\_\_

Operational definition of IV: \_\_\_\_\_

DV: \_\_\_\_\_

Operational definition of DV: \_\_\_\_\_

Hypothesis: \_\_\_\_\_