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Grade 7-Red St. Joseph School  
Herndon, VA  
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Behavioral and Social Science  
Real or Not Real? That is the Question

The purpose of the experiment was to determine if people's confidence level when shown twenty mixed pictures of genuine and fake smiles correlates to the amount of correct responses. The hypothesis is that if participant's confidence level is 50% when shown twenty mixed pictures of genuine and fake smiles, then their actual responses will increase.

To conduct the experiment, tester determined the participant's confidence level by asking them how many genuine and fake smiles they could identify correctly. The confidence level and participants' ages were the independent variables. The test responses were the dependent variable. The participants were instructed to take an online test, which showed them twenty genuine and fake smile pictures. The participants had to identify them as genuine or fake. The tester recorded the participants responses as correct or incorrect.

It was concluded that the hypothesis was correct because the participants confidence level was 75% and their actual responses were 80% correct. Of note, when the participants were divided into three age level groups, the actual responses had notable differences. The 20-40 age group had a confidence level of 75% and their actual responses were 70% correct. The 40-60 age group had a confidence level of 75% and their actual responses were 75% correct. The over 60 age group had a confidence level of 60% and their actual responses were 75% correct.