

Basic Science & Clinical Research Abstract SAMPLE

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4. IRB and animal protocol information may be left blank; however, if you do so and your abstract indicates that your research involves either animals or human subjects, you will be asked to withdraw your abstract.

TITLE (ALL CAPS, 10 words or less)	GOOD PENS IMPROVE STUDENTS' EXAM PERFORMANCE
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Abstract No more than 300 words including section titles Use Sub-headings listed	<p>Hypothesis: We hypothesize that writing utensils affect the test scores in American dental schools. Objective: To test whether the quality of the pen or pencil used by dental students correlates with their test scores. Methods: 45 members of the 2011 D1 Class at the University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry were randomly assigned to four groups prior to taking their final exams. Each student in the group was provided with a writing instrument as follows: Group A- Office Max #2 pencil; Group B-Crayola crayon (assorted colors); Group C- Bic Stic pens (blue ink); Group D- MontBlanc ivory fountain pen. Results: The students in Group A that used Office Max #2 pencils had a higher average score on their final exams as compared to the other groups. The students that used the Mont Blanc pens (Group D) scored the lowest of the four groups tested. Students in Groups B (crayon) and Group C (Bic pen) scored comparably on the exams and the results between these two groups was not statistically significant (p<0.5). In response to a follow up questionnaire, the most critical feature of the #2 pencil that seemed to correlate with the higher test scores was the inclusion of an eraser on the end of the pencil; other writing utensils provided did not include a method for self-correcting mistakes made during the exams. Conclusions: The type of writing utensil used by dental students to take tests has an effect on the outcome. Students using an Office Max #2 pencil consistently scored higher on exams when compared to their classmates who used other types of writing instruments. Using an Office Max #2 pencil appears to result in scoring higher exam grades providing the eraser function is judiciously employed. Funding: NIDCR R01DE0123456 IRB/ACC protocol: IRB 2011-1234; ACC 11-123</p>