Hypothesis

The **Hypothesis** is worded so that it can be tested in the experiment. The Hypothesis always predicts how changes in the independent variable affect the dependent variable. These also need to be stated in a way that can be readily measured.

The **Hypothesis** will point the way to the experimental design.

Here are two *acceptable* formats for writing a testable hypothesis:

1. If the _____ _____ ,
(independent variable) (describe how it will be changed)

then the _____ _____ .
(dependent variable) (describe the effect)

Examples:
1. If the length of a vibrating string is increased, the sound will become louder.
2. If older compost is applied to the plants, then the plant growth will be increased.

2. As the _____ _____ ,
(independent variable) (increases/decreases)

the _____ _____ .
(dependent variable) (increases/decreases)

Examples:
1. As the amount of salt added to ice increases, the temperature of the mixture decreases.
2. As the number of bees living in a hive increases, the number of bees that hatch decreases.

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