

Portable Melanometer

[1:20]

The MC enters, carrying a wooden spoon, which she holds up for the audience to see.

Screen: [wooden spoon, diagram of skin structure, melanin molecule]

MC: Ok, I know what you're thinking. You probably think this is a wooden spoon, but you would be wrong. What I am holding in my hand is actually a high tech device called a melanometer. With this device I can measure the precise amount of melanin in a person's skin up to a distance of 100 meters with more than 100 percent accuracy.

You can use this handy device to confirm every one of your idiotic biases about other people, based on nothing but meaningless melanin! So very helpful.

The MC mimes turning the device on.

Just flip the confirmation bias switch to "on," and you're good to go! Let's try it out on some of you in the audience. The readings will appear on the screen behind me.

The MC points the melanometer at someone in the audience.

Screen: Micronesian

MC: Huh. Well, let's try someone else.

The MC points the melanometer at someone else in the audience.

Screen: Gray

MC: Whoops! Sorry, folks.

The MC whacks the melanometer hard a couple of times.

Let's try again.

Screen: Black...Irish

MC: Hey, this thing isn't confirming my prejudices at all! Ok, one more try.

The MC points the melanometer at one final choice of audience member.

Screen: Pure as the driven slush

MC: *(seething with frustration)* HENRY! THE MELANOMETER'S BUSTED AGAIN!

The MC storms off.