

# Tomato Experiment: Consent Form

You have been asked to be a volunteer in a research study that is taking place on the evening of April 1, 2014 at 7D, San Francisco.

## Introduction

Christopher and Oinkina have a long-standing dispute about the quality of Oinkina's tomato vs. his. To this end, Christopher and Oinkina designed a double-blinded experiment. Christopher's tomato selection will be compared with Oinkina's selection, by both Christopher and Oinkina, and third-party volunteers.

## Methods

Earlier today, Christopher and Oinkina went to El Produce market and independently selected tomatoes from their cheapest batch, \$0.79/lb. tomatoes. These tomato selections were then labelled "C" and "E" to distinguish. Then a tomato was selected from each and placed upside-down on a small plate. One of the tomato plates was labelled with a note with a star on the bottom, while the other was left unmarked. A piece of paper was folded up with the key for which batch the starred plate corresponds to.

We are seeking a volunteer to administer the test (the "Administrator"). The Administrator will cut each tomato, keeping them corresponding to their respective plates. They will also mix up the plates so that Christopher and Oinkina can't tell which plate is labelled.

We are also seeking volunteers to take the test<sup>1</sup>. The Administrator will offer a slice from each plate to Christopher, Oinkina, and the tasters. Without conversing, each taster will record their opinions of which plate contained the better tomato.

Finally, the Administrator will open up the paper with the key and tally the marks for each.

## Significance

This research will resolve important open problems in the field, primarily:

1. Do Oinkina or Christopher have real preference for the tomatoes that they pick, or is it perhaps psychological?
2. Are Oinkina's or Christopher's selection objectively superior (as determined by third-party volunteers)?

## Volunteer Terms

**Risks/Discomforts:** There are no foreseeable risks/discomforts in this study.

**Costs to you:** There are no costs to you.

**Benefits:** You are not likely going to benefit in any way from joining this study, beyond receiving two slices of tomato of questionable quality. However, your participation in this study will contribute to our understanding of tomato selection and its affect on quality, such that we can look to improve the average tomato quality at 7D.

**Confidentiality:** You will not be asked for your name or other identifying information. The data that is collected will be kept private to the extent allowed by law. To make sure that this research is being carried out in the proper way, the 7D Internal Review Board may review study records. However, the aggregate information may be used in a blog post by Oinkina.

**Subject Rights:**

- Your participation in this study is voluntary. You do not have to be in this study if you don’t want to be.
- You have the right to change your mind and leave the study at any time without giving any reason, and without penalty.
- You may spit out a particularly unpleasant tomato slice if need be, without any penalty.

**Questions About the Study or Your Rights as a Research Subject:** If you have any questions about the study, you may contact Oinkina or Christopher at 7D, San Francisco.

# Volunteer Consent

If you agree to participate as a volunteer as described above and subject to all terms, please sign below:

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(Printed name)

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(Signed name)

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(Date)

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1. pending approval from the 7D Ethics Board for Use of Human Subjects↩