How do you feel

**Purpose**
To test the sensitivity of different parts of the skin.

**Materials**
- 2 sharpened pencils
- masking tape
- helper

**Procedure**
- Tape the pencils together so that the points are even.
- Ask a helper to look away as you GENTLY touch his or her forearm with both pencil points. Be sure the points touch the skin at the same time.
- Ask “How many points do you feel?”
- Do the experiment again, but touch the pencil points to the tip of the helper’s thumb or finger.
- Again, ask “How many points do you feel?”

**Results**
The other person feels only one point on the forearm, and two points are on the finger or thumb tip.

**Why?**
The nerve endings in the arm and other parts of the body are too few to allow one to distinguish the separate pressures from the pencil points. The extra number of nerve endings in the finger and thumb tips allows one to make more accurate identifications. There is an increase in the pain experienced in areas with more nerve endings.