

Judging Reliability

Reliability: The ability to be depended on for accuracy

- When judging the reliability of an experiment results or scientific study, take into account:
 - how the research was conducted
 - who conducted the research
 - the size of the study group

Read the following scenarios and rate their reliability on a scale of 1 to 5. Briefly describe why you chose this rating.

1 – very unreliable

5 – very reliable

Susan baked cookies. All of her friends said they were delicious.	1 2 3 4 5
Luis tested 10 different recipes comparing nonfat milk, 2% milk, and whole milk. He found that recipes using skim and 2% milk were much thinner in consistency.	1 2 3 4 5
Scientists working for a peanut butter manufacturer tested one of every 1,000 jars for bacteria.	1 2 3 4 5
20 people were used to test a new weight-loss supplement. All were close in age, beginning weight and general health. 10 were given the real supplement, while 10 were given a placebo. Patients were not told which pill they received.	1 2 3 4 5
Alicia is a researcher for a canning company. The company has tested many different canning materials for shelf-life and safety from heat, cold and pressure. The project has lasted 18 months.	1 2 3 4 5