

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Good vs. Poor Experimental Design

Directions: Read the experiment below and complete the chart that follows noting which aspects of the experiment would be considered good experimental design and which aspects would be considered poor experimental designs:

A student wanted to see whether a sunshade in your windshield keeps a car cooler. The student used his dad's VW Beetle and his mom's minivan. The student placed a sunshade in the windshield of the VW Beetle in the driveway, but not in the minivan which was in the garage. The student started his experiment at 9AM and let the car sit for an hour. After an hour, the student measured the temperature inside each vehicle with a thermometer. The student repeated his/her steps over the next 4 days. After the fifth day of experimenting, the student noted that the temperature inside each vehicle was the same. The student concluded that the sunshade has no effect on temperature.

<i>Good Experimental Design</i>	<i>Poor Experimental Design</i>