

Method

Participants

Fifty students (68% female) from a large university enrolled in a statistics course participated in the study. The mean age was 20.4 years old.

Procedure

Students were randomly assigned to receive caffeinated or non-caffeinated coffee. All participants were told the coffee was caffeinated. They had 20 minutes to drink the coffee. After the 20 minute period, all students were given their assigned math test. Students had the remainder of the class period to complete the test.

Materials

Caffeinated coffee was made with one scoop of Wal-Mart brand coffee and 6 oz. of water. Non-caffeinated coffee was made with one scoop of decaffeinated Wal-Mart brand coffee and 6 oz. of water as well.

Results

Our study tested the hypothesis that students who were given caffeinated coffee would score higher on a math test than those who didn't. Our hypothesis was accepted. The caffeinated group scored higher than the non-caffeinated group. The caffeinated group had a mean score of 88.4% and the non-caffeinated group had an average score of 78.2%, suggesting that the students who had caffeine performed better on the test.