Test Strip Handout

1. Open enlarger aperture all the way and focus your picture.
2. Close aperture down all the way, then open it three stops.
3. Set timer to 3 seconds.
4. Get a test strip from your bag of photo paper and **immediately close the bag so you don’t expose and ruin your photo paper.**
5. Place the test strip on the easel and cover all but an inch with the cardboard found in the plastic box.
6. Press the print button and expose for three seconds.
7. Move the cardboard another inch and press the print button again… do this a total of five times. For the 5th exposure, the cardboard will be removed.
8. Process in developer for one minute.
9. Quickly move the test strip through the rest of the steps.
10. Place test strip on a towel and study the image under the light of the broken enlarger to determine the correct exposure.
11. If you cannot determine a correct exposure, you will have to do another test strip. **REMEMBER:** if the test strip is too dark, you will have to **SHUT** the aperture down one or two stops and make a new test strip or if the test strip is too light you will have to **OPEN** up the aperture (letting more light in) and make a new test strip.
12. YOU cannot expect to make a good print if you do not get a good reading from a test strip! DO NOT GUESS the exposure. Rather, take the small amount of time it takes to make a test strip. You will be happy you did because in the long run, you’ll save time and paper!

**Glue your test strip below and staple this sheet to your practice darkroom photo!**

**3 6 9 12 15**

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