

# 2-STEP APPROACH TO HYPOTHESIS WRITING

## STEP 1: Come up with a specific reason that explains the phenomena.

Template: The <phenomenon, topic> (is due to, is caused by, depends on) <specific reason>

Make sure students provide specific details. For example, saying “Record sales depend on an artist’s popularity” **isn’t** specific enough.

To make a **stronger** statement, define what type of popularity.

For example, “Record sales depend on an artist’s popularity - specifically, the number of online followers the artist has before the release of the album”.

This is a much stronger statement as it defines what type of popularity (ie. Online, social media) and when (ie. Before the release of an album).

## STEP 2: Write a testable statement.

Template: If <independent/manipulated variable>  
<increases/decreases>, then <dependent/respondent variable> <increases/decreases>

An independent or manipulated variable is something a scientist or researcher has the power to directly change. The dependent or respondent variable is the something that responds to the changes of the independent variable. In the case for our hypothesis above, online followers is the independent variable and record sales is the dependent variable.

We can write the testable statement “If the number of online followers an artist has increases, then the artist’s record sales increases.”