

Describe this kid...



What do you think about these boys?



How about these girls?



# Stereotype

Your Ideas:

My idea:

Judging  
someone based  
on looks without  
actually knowing  
them.





EVENTS  
PARENT TEACHER  
MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 7:30  
  
PEP RALLY  
THURSDAY 4:00  
PARENTS PLEASE  
BRING YOUR OWN  
  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
DANIELA W. 7:00 P.  
BETH W. 8:00 P.  
TRAVIS S.

PRINC

ADMINISTRATION

RM 10

W. JACO  
WIP

CTV

# What is a Scientist?

In your mind, imagine a scientist...

What does the scientists look like?

What is the scientist wearing?

What tools is the scientist using?

What is the scientist doing?

Where is the scientist?





## Public Perceptions of Scientists

The scientist is a man who wears a white coat and works in a laboratory. He is elderly or middle aged and wears glasses...He may wear a beard, may be...unkempt....He is surrounded by equipment...and spends his days doing experiments ([Mead and Metraux 1957](#)).

In the years since Margaret Mead first recorded her observations, several social scientists have administered the "Draw-a-Scientist" Test (DAST) to children. In this test, students are asked to draw pictures of scientists. Those pictures are then examined to see if they contain certain features normally associated with the stereotypical image of a scientist, including:

- a lab coat (usually white),
- eyeglasses,
- facial growth of hair (including beards, mustaches, or abnormally long sideburns),
- scientific instruments and laboratory equipment,
- books and filing cabinets,
- technology or the "products" of science, and
- captions, e.g., formulae, taxonomic classification, the "eureka!" syndrome.

Other features also are noted, such as the size of a scientific instrument in relation to the scientist; evidence of danger; the presence of light bulbs; the sex, race, or ethnicity of the scientist; and figures that resemble Einstein or "mad scientists" like Frankenstein ([Chambers 1983](#)). By counting the number of these indicators in the drawings, the researchers have been able to document the existence and prevalence of the stereotypical image of a scientist, one that contains at least several of the features cited above.

According to the DAST research, the stereotypical image of a scientist is alive and well in the minds of children. Moreover, children seem to form this image early in life, by the time they reach the second grade. It is even more ingrained and pronounced among older children. That is, the older the children, the more identified features their drawings contain. One study found little difference between the images held by college students and those of younger students, despite the fact that the former had probably had contact with actual scientists during their years at college ([Barman 1997a](#); [Fort and Varney 1989](#); [Barman 1997b](#); [Rahm and Charbonneau 1997](#)).

In 2001, the NSF survey included questions intended to measure public perceptions of scientists. Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with certain statements. For example, almost everyone (96 percent) agreed that "scientists are helping to solve challenging problems," and 86 percent agreed that "scientific researchers are dedicated people who work for the good of humanity." (See appendix tables [7-32](#) and [7-33](#).) Less than 20 percent thought that "a

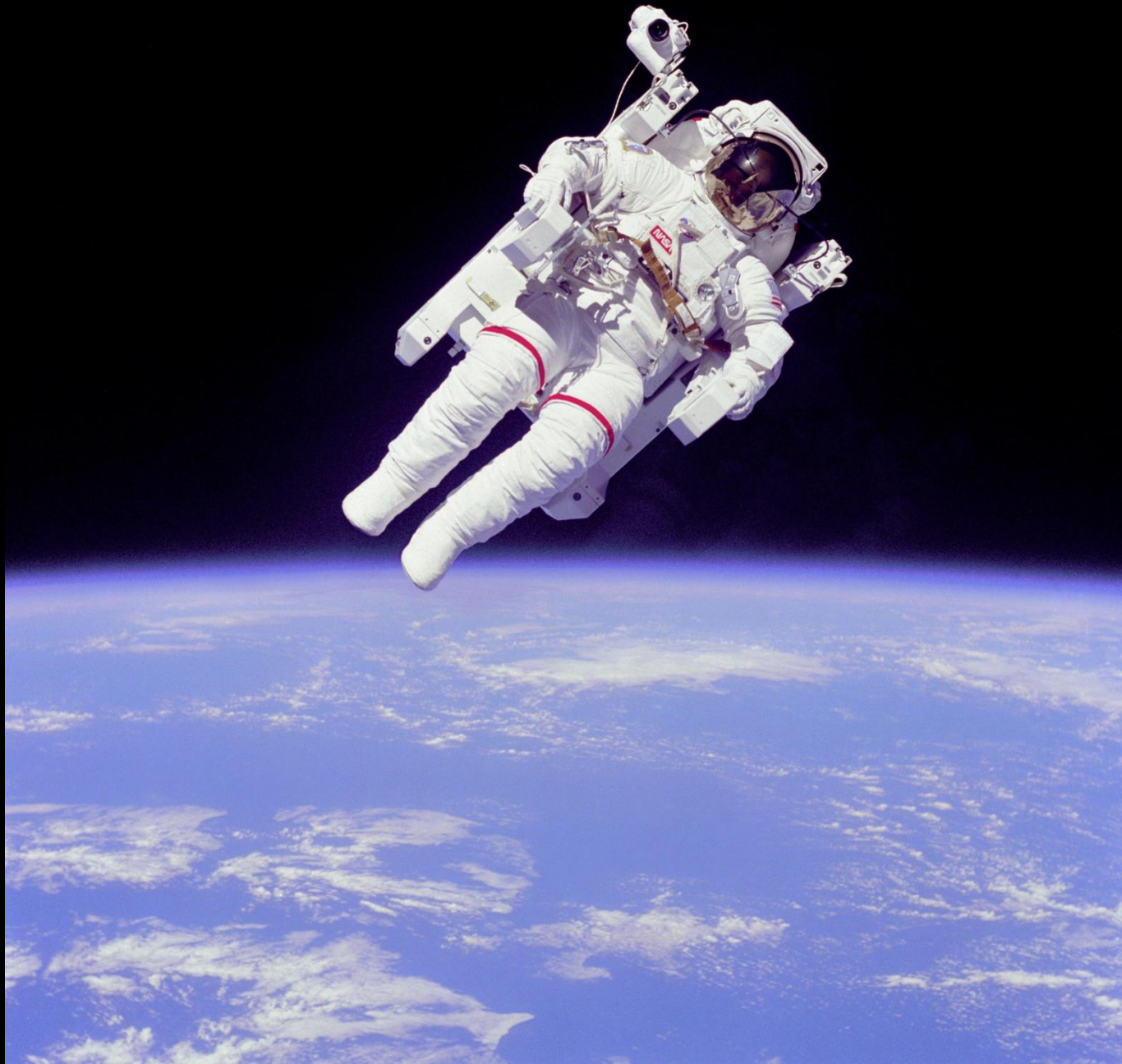


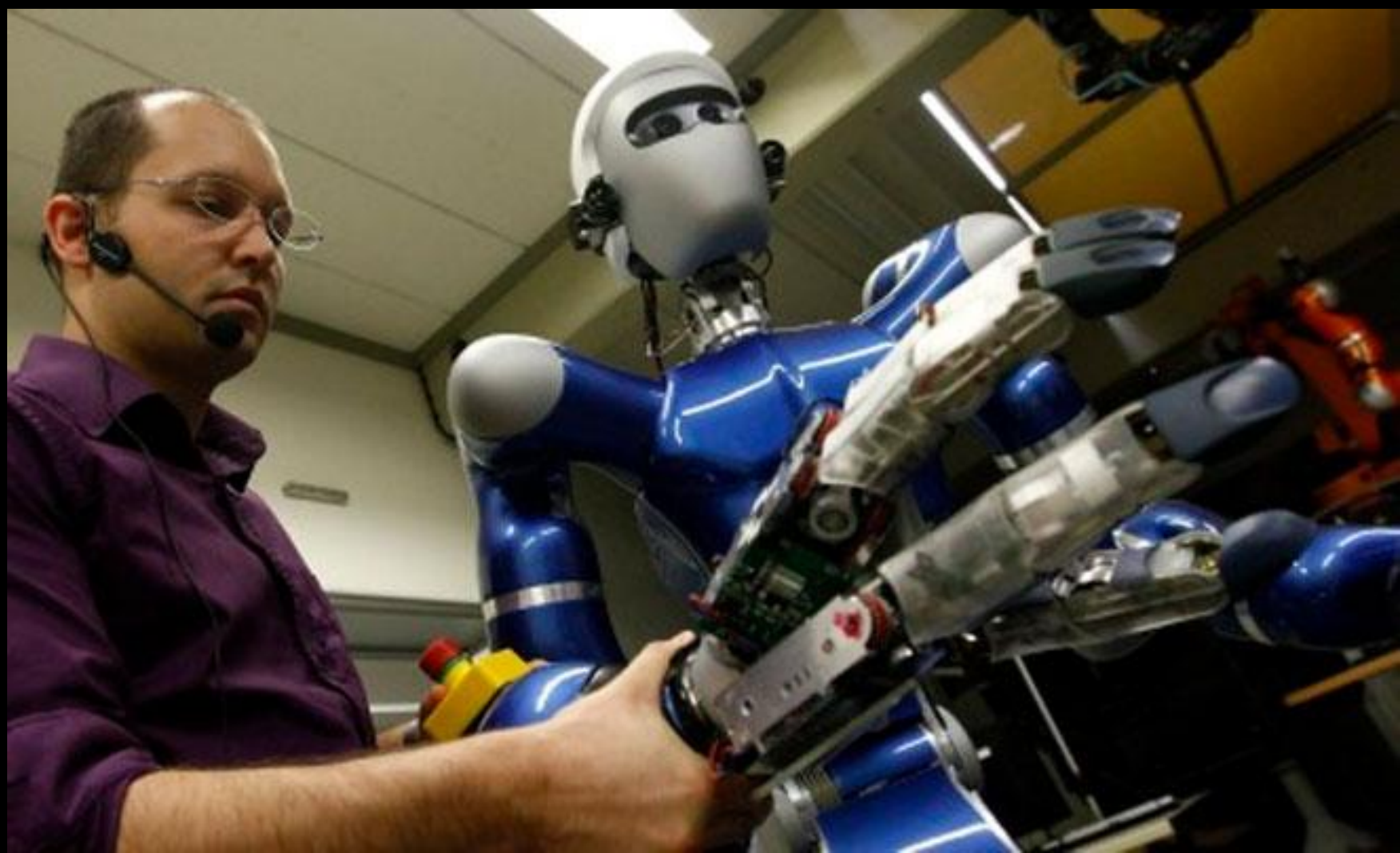




Turtle survives shark attack - Photo Alex Thornton









```
a.start();
a = OwnerAgentController().createNewAgent(name, classname, args);
//start emulator
String name = "Emu" + Owner.getLocalName();
args[0] = Owner.getLocalName();
args[1] = Owner.getID();
args[2] = Owner.getLocalName();
Object[] args = new Object[2];
//create arguments
classname += parentclassname.substring(dot+1);
classname = parentclassname.substring(dot+1) + classname;
if(dot>0)
String classname = "Emu";
int dot = parentclassname.indexOf('.');
String parentclassname = Owner.getClassName();
//package class -> package.class
//per emulator class
try
{
jade.wrapper.AgentController.newInstance();
m_parent = Owner;
}
public void start(AModel Owner)
```

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# ISN OUTPUT...

On the left hand side of your ISN construct a paragraph (or more) about how you drew your scientist...

- Describe the stereotypes you put into your drawing. (2)
- Why do you think you drew your scientist in this way? (5)
- What other stereotypes exist that you may have forgotten in your picture? (3)

Scientist Drawing (5)

