



## Turbidity

Turbidity is a measure of the amount of light passing through a column of water. It is the measurement of the water's cloudiness caused by suspended or undissolved solids.

### **Materials:**

- 12 tablespoons of milk
- 4 clear glasses of water—about 1 cup of water each
- 1 glass will have just one cup tap water—labeled control sample
- 1 glass will have one cup tap water with 2 tablespoons of milk—labeled sample #1
- 1 glass will have one cup tap water with 4 tablespoons of milk—labeled sample #2
- 1 glass will have one cup tap water with 6 tablespoons of milk—labeled sample #3
- Typed sheet of text—this activity printed out or a magazine advertisement with text

### **Procedure:**

Place the control sample glass of water over a typed sheet of text. What do you observe? How well can you read the text by looking through the glass?

Place turbid sample “1” over the typed sheet. What do you observe? How well can you read the text by looking through the glass?

Place each of the remaining samples over the typed sheet. What do you observe? How well can you read the text by looking through the glass?

### **Journal Questions:**

What should you do with the samples of water to ensure they pass drinking water standards?

Is the most turbid sample mean it is the most dangerous sample?

How would you try to clean the samples?