Skillets Visitor Observation Study

Joshua Gutwill

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THIS IS NOT A DEFINITIVE FINAL REPORT

FORMATIVE evaluation studies like this one often:

- are conducted quickly, which may mean
  - small sample sizes
  - expedited analyses
  - brief reports

- look at an earlier version of the exhibit/program, which may mean
  - a focus on problems and solutions, rather than successes
  - a change in form or title of the final exhibit/program
Goals: To determine how visitors use the Skillets Exhibit

Methods:

Create two conditions:
- After visitor leaves, reset pans to the cold table (correct reset)
- After visitor leaves, reset pans to the hot plate (sabotaged reset)

Findings:

- Very few visitors in either condition touched the hot plate.
- Visitors in the Correct Reset condition spent a little more time at the exhibit.
- Visitors in the Correct Reset condition placed a few more pans on the hot plate.
- Visitors in the Correct Reset condition compared a two pans a few more times.
- Visitors mainly left the exhibit as they found it.

Detailed results can be found in the graphs below.
Did visitor touch the hotplate

Time spent at Skillets

Avg Cold = 1.7 min
Avg Hot = 1.1 min
Number of times a pan was placed on hot plate
(Skillets)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of times</th>
<th>Reset to cold plate</th>
<th>Reset to hot plate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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Avg Cold = 2.8 times
Avg Hot = 2.1 times

Number of times pans were compared

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Reset to hot plate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
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Avg Cold = 1.4 min
Avg Hot = 1.0 min
Where did visitor leave pans

- Left on hot
- Left on cold

Number of V groups

Place

Left on hot

Left on cold

Reset to cold plate
Reset to hot plate