

Abstract Submitted
for the TSS12 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Jell-O Optics: Edibly Exploring Snell's Law and Optical Power¹

JENNIFER HENDRYX, University of Arizona, MATHIAS REYNOLDS, Mountain View High School — This presentation details a laboratory exercise and/or demonstration of refraction with an inexpensive, simple set-up: a pan of Jell-O, protractors, and laser pointers. This activity is presented from the perspective of an optical sciences graduate student who has spent the school year team-teaching high school math and physics (through Academic Decathlon). The goal is to present some of the fundamentals of optics with an enjoyable and affordable approach. The concepts include Snell's law, index of refraction, and optical power/focal length as they relate to the curvature of a lens.

¹Funded through NSF G-TEAMS

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Date submitted: 15 Feb 2012

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