**Chocolate Tasting Program**

(I did this with my Tweens & Teens-4th grade & up, and it was a big hit! The parents wanted to be apart of it too …I encouraged the students to go home and do it with their families)

You will need one for each student:

\*A tasting experience placemat (I made my own up similar to the ones used at the Hershey Chocolate Factory…see attached)

\*Hershey’s Special Dark Chocolate bar (use only mini bars)

\*Hershey’s Milk Chocolate bar (use only mini bars)

\*A very dark Chocolate (I used Ghirardelli 86 % cacao as I found them in mini squares)

\* Cadbury Dairy Milk (I could only find in a large bar but it was made in small squares so you could break off each square)

\*a bottle of water (I used the mini water bottles but you can use larger if you want)

\*napkins

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Your placemat must have on it the Tasting Chocolate Wheel and the 4 candy bars you are going to taste in similar order of Hershey’s dark chocolate, Hershey’s milk chocolate, a very dark chocolate and Cadbury Dairy Milk which is a very sweet chocolate. This is to ensure the experience is a good one….most of the students will hate the very dark chocolate so you must end on a sweet taste. You also need to include the words: Look, Listen, Smell, Taste on the placemat These are the basis for your program

Get the room ready for your Chocolate Tasting Experience: You should have tables set up with chairs around with a placemat at each one. On the place mat you need to put the coordinating candy bar on top of the image on each placemat and a napkin and bottle of water at each setting.

You can have a white board or a large piece of paper on an easel and write down what the student say the different chocolates taste like and then compare them at the end.

The instructor needs to indicate to all the students to not touch/lick or eat anything until directed.

Welcome everyone to this special chocolate tasting event where when they are done they will become (your library name) chocolate Palateers. A Palateer is someone who samples products using all of their senses and provides comments on flavor and texture. This is a group participation activity that we will do together.

I went over where chocolate comes from and used some of my library books then…

Tell everyone to carefully open their bottle of water and take a sip and swish it around in their mouth to cleanse their palates (**Palate** can also mean the roof of one's mouth or the taste of something, such as wine: They had assumed the receptors would be restricted to the tongue, soft **palate**, upper oesophagus and epiglottis). This is to get them ready to experience chocolate in a way they might not have before. Now open the Hershey’s Special Dark chocolate…..LOOK at it what color is it? Brown….what shade of brown? Is it pleasing to your eyes? Now take it to your ear and LISTEN as you break it in half….did you hear it snap? Was it loud? Why do you think is made a snapping sound? Now smell it. What do you Smell? Look at your tasting wheel…do you smell anything on it? Now take one of the pieces you broke (put the other piece back on the image of the candy bar and save it for later) and lay it on your tongue and let it melt on it. What do you TASTE? Think about it as you look at the tasting wheel. There are no wrong answers…Do you taste cherry? dirt? Bark? Let the students say what they taste….there are no wrong answers see what answers they choose ask them why do you think that. Now finish what is in your mouth and then take a sip of your water.

Now open the Hershey’s Milk chocolate…..LOOK at it what color is it? Brown….what shade of brown? Is it pleasing to your eyes? How does it compare to the Dark Chocolate? Now take it to your ear and LISTEN as you break it in half….did you hear it snap? Was it loud? No not as loud as the dark chocolate Why ? It has less cocao and more of what? Milk Now smell it. What do you Smell? Look at your tasting wheel…do you smell anything on it? Now take one of the pieces you broke (put the other piece back on the image of the candy bar and save it for later) and lay it on your tongue and let it melt on it. What do you TASTE? Think about it as you look at the tasting wheel. There are no wrong answers…Do you taste milk? vanilla? sweet? Let the students say what they taste….there are no wrong answers see what answers they choose ask them why do you think that. Did you know that Hershey has a signature flavor in their milk chocolate? Keep tasting it is something that you wouldn’t think…can you guess? Cheese! Can you taste it? Yes, that was the “different” taste you tasted. Now finish what is in your mouth and then take a sip of your water.

Now open the Chirardelli 86 % Dark chocolate…..LOOK at it what color is it? Brown….what shade of brown…black? Is it pleasing to your eyes do you like it better than the other two chocolate bars? Now take it to your ear and LISTEN as you break it in half….did you hear it snap? Was it loud? Why do you think is made a louder snapping sound? It has more cacao in it making it harder and that is why it “snapped” more. Now smell it. What do you Smell? Look at your tasting wheel…do you smell anything on it? Now take one of the pieces you broke …I suggest not a large piece(put the other piece back on the image of the candy bar and save it for later) and lay it on your tongue and let it melt on it. What do you TASTE? Think about it as you look at the tasting wheel. There are no wrong answers…Do you taste mold? dirt? Bark? Let the students say what they taste….there are no wrong answers see what answers they choose ask them why do you think that. Now finish what is in your mouth and then take a sip of your water. \*\*\*\*some kids will want to spit it out…have them use their napkins ask them why they wanted to spit it out what was the bad taste?

Now open the Dairy Milk chocolate(this is produced by Hershey and contains the most milk…..LOOK at it what color is it? Brown….what shade of brown? Is it pleasing to your eyes? Now take it to your ear and LISTEN as you break it in half….did you hear it snap? Was it louder or softer than the Hershey milk chocolate? Why do you think it was softer? More milk. Now smell it. What do you Smell? Sugar, cream? Look at your tasting wheel…do you smell anything on it? Now take one of the pieces you broke (put the other piece back on the image of the candy bar and save it for later) and lay it on your tongue and let it melt on it. What do you TASTE? Think about it as you look at the tasting wheel. There are no wrong answers…Do you taste creme? milk? carmel? Let the students say what they taste….there are no wrong answers see what answers they choose ask them why do you think that. Now finish what is in your mouth and then take a sip of your water.

You are now a (library name) Chocolate Palateer! You may eat the rest of your chocolate and when you eat other chocolates look at your tasting wheel…how do they compare?

\*\*You can make up certificates that say\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- is a Chocolate Palateer at the (your llibrary) and make it look really cute.