Blind Spot

Experiment 1:

- Hold a test strip out at arm's length with the black dot on the left and segmented line on the right.
- Close your left eye, and use your right eye to look at the black dot. (You will notice that even though you are looking only at the black dot, you can still see the segmented line with your side vision.)
- **Slowly** move the test strip toward your right eye, making sure to look only at the black dot.
- At some point you will notice that the line in your side vision will become unbroken.

Questions:

- Why does the line become unbroken?
- What changes? the line or our perception of the line?
- Why don't we usually notice the blind spot in our vision?
- Do you notice the blind spot with both eyes open? Why?
- You have probably looked at things with only one eye open before, why do you think you have never noticed the blind spot?
- How big is the blind spot?

Part 2: Hypothetical Situation

After doing this test, a classmate says, "I bet the reason we never notice the blind spot in our vision is because our other eye is always open and it lets us know what is in the blind spot." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Write your reasoning. (Hint, the diagram provided might help you to make your decision.)

Want more information? Here are some keyword suggestions you can use to find more information on this subject, use one of them when answering the hypothetical situation question: Photoreceptor, optic nerve, retina, occipital lobe