Perfect Parachutes

You have been asked to help redesign a parachute for the Super Skydiving Company. You will make three parachutes and see which type of parachute falls the slowest. Which variables will you change, observe or measure and keep the same?

Possible variables:

Type of material	Size of parachute	Height of drop	Conditions of drop
Shape of parachute	Length of string to attach object to parachute		Object attached to parachute

Independent variable (the thing you will change about your parachute each time):

Dependent variable (the thing that will be affected by the independent variable – this is the thing you will observe or measure):

Controlled variables (all the other things that you will keep the same about the parachutes and your investigation):

What do you predict will happen? Which parachute will have most air resistance pushing it up, and will fall the slowest?

Complete your results in the table below:

	Description of parachute (e.g. size / shape / material)	**Time taken for parachute to hit the ground**
Parachute 1		
Parachute 2		
Parachute 3		

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Independent variable: _____

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_____

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_____

Explain why you think this, referring to air resistance:

_____

_____

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