Support rod horizontally on two fingers, one at either end of the rod. Move the fingers together rather rapidly (so that the rod starts to slide on each), and note that the two fingers remain at equal distances from the center as they approach the center.

Again with one finger at either end of the rod, move the two together very slowly (so that the rod starts to slide on only one finger), and note that the rod slides first on one finger and then the other as the two fingers approach the center. This shows that: (1) The force of friction increases as the force between the rod and the finger increases; (2) The coefficient of static friction is larger than the coefficient of kinetic friction.

With the two fingers reasonably close together (perhaps 10” apart), one on either side of the center, note that as the fingers are moved apart the rod slides only on one finger. This is true whether the fingers are separated slowly or rapidly.