

Demo Document

The Measure of a Man (*Star Trek: The Next Generation*)

"**The Measure of a Man**" is the ninth episode of the [second season](#) of the [syndicated science fiction](#) television series [Star Trek: The Next Generation](#), the 35th episode overall, first broadcast on February 13, 1989. It is written by [Melinda M. Snodgrass](#) and directed by [Robert Scheerer](#).

In the episode, the [android](#) officer [Lieutenant Commander Data](#) must fight for his right of self-determination in order not to be declared the property of Starfleet and be disassembled in the name of science. This is also the first *TNG* episode to have a scene with the ship's crew playing [poker](#).

Plot

While the [Federation](#) starship [Enterprise](#), under the command of Captain [Jean-Luc Picard](#), is docked at Starbase 173 for routine maintenance, [cyberneticist](#) Commander Bruce Maddox comes aboard to pay Lieutenant Commander Data a visit, wishing to better understand how Data's creator, [Dr. Noonien Soong](#), was able to overcome certain problems in designing and constructing Data's [positronic brain](#). It quickly becomes clear that Maddox has an ulterior motive of storing Data's positronic brain in the starbase mainframe computer and shutting down and disassembling the android to learn how to recreate Soong's technology. Though Maddox promises to restore Data after the analysis is complete and assures him his memories will be intact, Data states the substances and flavors of the experiences he gained with them could very well be lost. Data, aware of the delicate nature of this procedure and to prevent damage to himself thus protecting "the culmination of Soong's dream", refuses to submit to Maddox's desires, forcing Maddox to turn to Starfleet to order that Data submit himself to "experimental refit". Captain Picard stands up for Data, and Picard learns that the only way to avoid the order is for Data to resign from Starfleet. Maddox, however, argues that Data is the property of Starfleet and not a sentient being and as such Starfleet need not permit him to resign.

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Remastering

For the season two Blu-ray set, [CBS](#) decided to include a special "Extended Cut". This included thirteen minutes of additional footage, most of which only existed in the episode writer's (Melinda Snodgrass) hands. All that existed was a VHS videotape of it, but CBS was able to pull off the extended cut with them finding the original filmed segments. It was released in theaters with "Q Who?" on November 29, 2012. The difference in the running time was attributed to "small personal moments" by Snodgrass, but also added that Riker wanted to beat Picard although he cared for Data. This was emphasised in one particular scene, which Snodgrass was pleased had been restored to the episode.^[1]