



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR  
2002 PROJECT SUMMARY**

<b>Name(s)</b> <b>Daniel P. Ferons</b>	<b>Project Number</b> <b>J1308</b>
<b>Project Title</b> <b>How Clean Are the Tops of Soda Cans?</b>	
<b>Abstract</b> <b>Objectives/Goals</b> If I buy a soda at school, what is the most effective way to clean the top of the can before drinking the soda? <b>Methods/Materials</b> I bought four cans of soda from the cafeteria and four cans from the soda machine at school. From each group, one can was not cleaned, one was wiped with my t-shirt, one was rinsed with water and dried with a paper towel and one was washed with soap and water. A sterile q-tip was used to take a sample from each can and put on a petri dish. The samples were incubated to see if bacteria was present. I checked them for four days and counted the bacteria colonies growing each day. <b>Results</b> The results were the cans that were not cleaned grew the most bacteria colonies. The cans that were cleaned grew fewer colonies. The cafeteria can cleaned with a t-shirt had the fewest bacteria colonies for that group. The vending machine can that was washed with soap and water was the cleanest for that group. <b>Conclusions/Discussion</b> Tops of un-cleaned cans grew the most bacteria colonies. All types of cleaning a student can do at school were successful in reducing bacteria growth. Soda cans should be at least wiped off before you drink out of them.	
<b>Summary Statement</b> Soda cans should be cleaned before you drink out of the can.	
<b>Help Received</b> Santa Margarita Water District Lab provided petri dishes, a portable incubator and other items along with explaining how to use them.	