



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2004 PROJECT SUMMARY**

Name(s) Kaitlyn M. Shedd	Project Number J0335
Project Title Does Sentence Structure Affect the Ability to Decipher Words?	
Abstract Objectives/Goals The researcher's project entitled "Does Sentence Structure Affect the Ability to Decipher Words?" was done to learn and understand more about reading and the way the mind works with deciphering words. When the researcher read the Cambridge's study, she was amazed how one is able to interpret correct words even though they are misspelled. She also wondered if sentence format gave an advantage to the subjects versus when the words were randomly placed. She chose this science fair project not only because reading experiments fascinate her, but she also wanted to further the knowledge of linguistics knowing how important reading is to mankind.	
Methods/Materials 1. Test subjects (22 females & 22 males) that are advanced experience readers 2. Take each subject and ask these questions: -First name? -Age? -Gender? -What grade did you start reading? -Any speed reading classes? 3. Have the subjects read both tests. Test 1: Cambridge's study; words randomly placed Test 2: Cambridge's original study 4. Time how long it takes each subject to read the sentences and mark mistakes. 5. Analyze results and evaluate data.	
Results After looking at the data the researcher discovered that her hypothesis was correct and that the Cambridge study was incorrect by not stating that sentence structure has an effect on reading. With sentence structure both men and women were able to read faster and with fewer mistakes.	
Conclusions/Discussion The researcher's hypothesis was correct because the Cambridge study was incorrect in ignoring sentence structure being extremely important for reading. The subjects were able to read at an average of 59.5% faster and make fewer mistakes (six less) with the test in a proper sentence structure.	
Summary Statement The study of deciphering misspelled words when in proper sentence structure versus when they are not.	
Help Received This year I got so much support and help from so many people, and I just want to say "thanks". But, there were some people that helped so much and I can't even describe it. But I want to especially wanted to thank my mom and dad, Debbie and Bob Shedd, my teacher Mr. Tortora, brothers and my friends and to	