



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2005 PROJECT SUMMARY**

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Project Title Oops... I Forgot!	
<p style="text-align: center;">Abstract</p> <p>Objectives/Goals Objectives: Our objective was to determine if the elaborative encoding process can improve the short term memory of Junior High students.</p> <p>Methods/Materials Methods: A sample of 120 7th grade students were divided into 4 class periods. They were given 2 tests in this experiment. In each test students looked at an overhead transparency of 20 objects for 2 minutes. They then listed as many objects as they could remember. In Test 1 they used no memory techniques. In Test 2 students used the elaborative encoding process to help them remember as many objects as possible. Test 2 displayed 20 new objects. Scores were tabulated and averaged.</p> <p>Results Results showed that the elaborative encoding process increased the short-term memory 17% on average in junior high students.</p> <p>Conclusions/Discussion In a sample of this size we believe a 17% increase in test results is significant for this age group. The short term memory of junior high students did improve when using the elaborative wencoding process. Our results suggested that the brain does hold onto information better when it makes meaningful connections. In future studies questions that could be asked include: Does the elaborative encoding process improve the long term memory in junior high students? Can it improve the short term memory of Alzheimers patients?</p>	
Summary Statement Our project investigated the effects the elaborative encoding process has upon short term memory in junior high students.	
Help Received Teacher Mike Huckert helped make transparencies for our tests and supervised the actual tests. DJs mother helped in the typing of our report.	