

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2009 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

J0319

Project Title

What Are You Afraid Of?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

I wanted to find out if people's fears change with age and if people of different age groups have different fears.

So I formed a yes/no questionnaire on fear and I surveyed a total of ninety-six people aging from 7-72. Then I tallied the results of yes/no responses to the fear questions and divided in four categories.

The results of my experiment showed that people of different ages had somehow similar fears. That no matter what age group, people mostly fear human interaction and nature.

Through research, I did not find out that fear comes in many guises and do change as we age. As we grow, we outgrow our unreal or irrational fears. Our fears become tied to specific dangers, threats, and situations that we encounter.

Methods/Materials

Materials/Subjects: 1.People of Different Ages; 2.White Paper; 3.Pencil; 4.Pens; 5.Printed Interview Questions/Questionnaire; 6.Computer; 7.Printer.

Results

Basing on the tally results, here are my observations:

(total number of people interviewed:96)

- a. Most of the 7-12 age groups fear human interactions more than the other categories.
- b.Most of the 13-18 age groups are afraid of human interactions and nature.
- c.Most of 19-24 age groups fear nature and human interactions compared to the other categories.
- d.Most of the 25-30 age groups are afraid of nature.
- e.Most of the 31-36 age groups are afraid of nature.
- f.Most of the 37-42 age groups are afraid of nature.
- g.Most of the 43+ age groups are afraid of nature.

Conclusions/Discussion

Basing on the results of my experiment, I conclude that even though their fears differ in other categories, majority of the people that participated, no matter what age group they belong in, feared human interaction and nature the most. I also conclude that a person's fear may not only be determined by how old that person is but perhaps also by other factors such as their environment or cultural background, which i have not considered to include in my experiment. Although I have learned from my research that fear changes and differs with ages, I do not have enough data to support my hypothesis because the results of my surveys show that people of different ages somehow have similar fears.

Summary Statement

How Does Fear Change and Differ With Age?

Help Received

My mom helped by handing questionnaire to her co-workers, she also brought me to the mall so I can hand my fear questionnaire to some mall employees, and she helped with editing my report. Dr. D., one of my schoolmates' parent, gave me ideas on how to format my fear interview questionnare. Mr. Kreeger, my