

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2013 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number **S0421**

Project Title

The Effect of Music and Learning Genres on Exam Results

Objectives/Goals

My goal was to determine whether or not exam results were affected by: a) different genres of music playing and/or b) different learning styles.

Abstract

Methods/Materials

For my experiment I used a test of my creation (including questions I found online which are credited throughout my experiment), a stereo system for the music playing, and 25 students aged 15-17 enrolled in various levels of math classes. Five students were put into a room at a time and listened to a play-list of either Rap, Country, Classical, Indie/Alternative, or no music, and took the test featuring Visual, Kinesthetic, Logical, and Analytical learning styles.

Results

From their test results, I found that music had no correlation with the test results, however I also found that, when comparing all learning styles in pairs, the pairs featuring logical versus any other kind of data were statistically significant.

Conclusions/Discussion

In all, I found that my results did not support my hypothesis that the music with the steadiest tempo and soothing melody would positively support all styles of learning, and, as a result, test scores. They did, however, enable me to find that music doesn't affect exam result. When paired with logical learning analytical, kinesthetic, and visual learning, become significant. This allows us to acknowledge that when students do their homework while listening to music, parents should not be alarmed, as it doesn't affect their work.

Summary Statement

My experiment focuses on determining whether or not various musical genres of different tempos and/or different styles of learning affect the exam results of high school students.

Help Received

During my project, I was assisted by a Social Studies teacher by using his room for my trials.