

CALIFORNIA SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR 2019 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)
Maddox Smith
Project Number

J0121

Project Title

I'm Your Wingman: Aerodynamics of Wings and Winglets

Abstract

Objectives

To verify stability of wings with our without winglets. My goal was to verify which which type of wing is preferable from a safety versus efficiency.

Methods

Building a wind tunnel. Used a cardboard box, duct tape, clear plastic to create a viewing area, and foam board to create wing shapes. I simulate airflow by using a hairdryer in the highest setting.

Results

The average movement for the wing without winglets was 2/3 inches. The wing with winglets moved on average 1 1/4 inches. My objective was to understand the stability of wings with winglets since airlines have begun to use them to improve fuel efficiency.

Conclusions

I was interested in the project becuase of my research and family members involvement in aircraft. Also the last time I traveled on a plane I was interested in the winglets. I found winglets are used for better fuel economy, however, I wanted to know if they made the plane more stable. Further testing included more modern prototypes of winglets airlines are now using.

Summary Statement

Aerodynamic testing of the stability of wings with and without winglets.

Help Received

Parents helped in display board only.