

CALIFORNIA SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR 2019 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Project Number

Eden Stambaugh

J0422

Project Title

Developing Empathy in Adolescents

Abstract

Objectives

I am curious to use art as a way to develop empathy in adolescents. I am curious if the mode of delivery of this experiment (animation) can translate to higher levels of empathy for concepts and issues that are 'misunderstood'.

Methods

Used acetate, ink, and acrylic paints to simulate a parallax scrolling background. Used Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premier, and Lightroom to direct and produce animated short film. Used Chromebooks and Google Forms to administer tests to human subjects.

Conclusions

One of the most pressing problems of humanity is misunderstanding. The ability to process conflict with an empathetic response is a behavioral skill that has great social and moral implications. Quantified/qualified results show that animation can be used in many applications to actuate and develop empathy and tolerance in adolescents.

Summary Statement

The use of Human Centered Design principles - specifically animation - can increase empathetic responses in early adolescents.

Help Received

I conducted an oral interview with author/illustrator/activist Janell Cannon. I was mentored by filmmaker Anthony Parisi in the use of film editing software (Adobe Premier, Lightroom). My Life Sciences teacher reviewed my results.