



California Science Center
CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2000 PROJECT SUMMARY

Your Name (List all student names if multiple authors.) Sean J. Shanahan	Science Fair Use Only
Project Title (Limit: 120 characters. Those beyond 120 will be ignored. See pg. 9) In the Blink of an Eye	J1519
	Division J Junior (6-8) J Senior (9-12)
Preferred Category (See page 5 for descriptions.) 15 - Physiology	
Abstract (Include Objective, Methods, Results, Conclusion. See samples on page 14.) Use no attachments. Only text inside these boxes will be used for category assignment or given to your judges. Objective: My project was to determine if a person's blink rate can be affected by an emotional response. I believe that a person's blink rate will be affected by their emotional response to a stimulus. I believe that blink rate will increase in response to a sad stimulus. Materials and Methods: Six people, ages ten to twelve, consented to being tested for my experiment. None knew what they were being tested for other than that they would be watching movie clips and they would be videotaped. Each was shown four two minute movie clips from pre-selected movies of different genres and one two minute black tv screen as baseline. While they were watching the clips I videotaped them so I could count their blinks at a later time. All test variables were controlled so that test conditions would be the same. Results: Blink rate significantly increased for all six test subjects during the sad movie clip. This was consistently the highest blink rate for all test subjects for each stimulus. Conclusion: My conclusion is that blinking is affected by emotional response. Each person's blink rate increased from his or her base blink rate during the sad movie.	
Summary Statement (In one sentence, state what your project is about.) I tested people to see if blinking is affected by an emotional response	
Help Received in Doing Project (e.g. Mother helped type report; Neighbor helped wire board; Used lab equipment at university X under the supervision of Dr. Y; Participant in NSF Young Scholars Program) See Display Regulation #8 on page 4. Mother helped edit report	