



California Science Center  
**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR**  
**2001 PROJECT SUMMARY**

<p><b>Your Name</b> (List all student names if multiple authors.) <b>Samantha L. Groden</b></p>	<p><b>Science Fair Use Only</b></p>
<p><b>Project Title</b> (Limit: 120 characters. Those beyond 120 will be ignored. See pg. 9) <b>Witness Fitness</b></p>	<p><b>S0206</b></p>
<p><b>Preferred Category</b> (See page 5 for descriptions.) <b>2 - Behavioral Sciences</b></p>	<p><b>Division</b> _ Junior (6-8) <u>X</u> Senior (9-12)</p>
<p><b>Abstract</b> (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.</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> The objective of my experiment was to see how the amount of time after witnessing a crime affected the accuracy of eyewitness testimony</p> <p><b>Hypothesis:</b> As the amount of time increases after witnessing a crime, the amount of information about the crime accurately remembered by the eyewitness will decrease. Also, most witnesses who are interviewed even immediately after seeing the crime will not be 100 percent accurate.</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> In this experiment, four classrooms of girls (82 girls) were divided into four groups: Group A, Group B, Group C, and Group D. Each group was shown a video of a bank robbery from the movie "Bonnie and Clyde". Group A was tested (given questions having certain point values) on the robbery immediately after seeing the crime, Group B was tested one day after seeing the crime, Group C was tested one week after seeing the crime, and Group D was tested a month after seeing the crime. The points each group earned for accuracy, lost for inaccuracy, and lost for not knowing information were then calculated and compared.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> Group A, tested immediately after witnessing the crime, had an accuracy rate of 47.762 percent, which linearly decreased among the groups as time passed, with Group D, tested one month after witnessing the crime, having an accuracy rate of 24.714 percent. The inaccuracy rates were about the same for each group. Group A had a rate for unknown information of 40.905 percent, which linearly increased among the groups as time passed, with Group D having a rate for unknown information of 62.262 percent.</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> These results proved my hypothesis to be correct. The reason eyewitnesses did not remember all of the information of the crime was probably due to the passage of time and a lack of attention while witnessing the crime, not allowing all of the information to enter or be maintained in long-term memory.</p>	
<p><b>Summary Statement</b> (In one sentence, state what your project is about.) My project is about the reliability of eyewitness testimony and how its accuracy changes over time.</p>	
<p><b>Help Received in Doing Project</b> (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. My father helped me find a video for my project and helped me cut and glue my report papers on my display board.</p>	