



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2002 PROJECT SUMMARY**

Name(s) Laurel R. Phelps	Project Number J1711
Project Title How Does Peer Pressure Support Affect Performance?	
<p style="text-align: center;">Abstract</p> <p>Objectives/Goals My project was to determine the effect of positive or negative feedback by a group of peers, on performance. The feedback (support) is of a personal nature, and unrelated to the task being performed.</p> <p>Methods/Materials Individuals were blindfolded and asked to negotiate through a maze, consisting of posts and ropes. A chorus of people either made positive or negative comments about the person. These comments were not related to the task being performed but were of a personal nature. The same task was also performed with no feedback at all. The times it took to complete the maze was recorded and compared.</p> <p>Results People had shorter times with positive feedback than with negative feedback, but the shortest times of all were with no feedback at all.</p> <p>Conclusions/Discussion I concluded that creating a positive and supportive atmosphere around a person can enhance their ability to perform a task when compared to performing the same task in a negative atmosphere. However, both types of feedback in this particular experiment seemed to lessen the person's ability to concentrate on the task, since most subjects had their shortest times with no feedback at all.</p>	
Summary Statement Does positive or negative peer support affect a person's ability to perform a physical task?	
Help Received My parents helped me design my experiment. My father helped me build the posts to create my maze.	