



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR  
2008 PROJECT SUMMARY**

<b>Name(s)</b> <b>Joseph E. Colona</b>	<b>Project Number</b> <b>J0304</b>
<b>Project Title</b> <b>How Does Music Affect Typing Speed?</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Abstract</b></p> <p><b>Objectives/Goals</b> The purpose of this project was to determine the genre of music and the tempo of music that produces the fastest typing speeds in words per minute.</p> <p><b>Methods/Materials</b> First subjects were taken, one at a time, to a computer to type. The subjects typed predetermined lines while listening to different predetermined songs, which fit into different musical genre/tempo categories. The genre/tempo categories used were fast rock, slow rock, fast blues, slow blues, fast rap, slow rap and no music. The number of words per minute for each subject was recorded. The recorded information was then averaged, graphed and compared. Three trials were run. Materials: 1 101 standard keyboard; 1 PC computer; 1 Mavis Beacon Teaches, Typing Version 15, program for PC; 1 pair of Califone 2924AV-PS headphones; 6 songs; "Tell Me How Do You Feel" by Ray Charles (Fast Blues); "A Dream" by Jay-Z featuring Faith Evans and Notorious Big (Fast Rap); "The Pretender" by Foo Fighters (Fast Rock); "That Evil Child" by B.B. King (Slow Blues); "I Made It" by Jay-Z (Slow Rap); "Californication" by Red Hot Chili Peppers (Slow Rock); 1 Permission slip per test subject; 100 subjects ages 8-14.</p> <p><b>Results</b> The results of this of this experiment showed that fast rap produced the fastest typing speeds at 13.54 words per minute. Slow rock produced the second fastest typing speed at 12.21 words per minute. Slow blues, fast blues and no music all got the same, slow blues at 11.83 words per minute, fast blues at 11.94 words per minute and no music at 11.39 words per minute. Fast rock and slow rap both produced the slowest results at around 10 words per minute. According to tempo alone fast music produced the most words per minute, but this number is somewhat misleading considering how poorly fast rock performed.</p> <p><b>Conclusions/Discussion</b> The hypothesis that fast rock would produced the most words per minute was disproved. The most likely reason is that fast rock may have been too fast to keep up with along with keeping up with the words that had to be typed, while fast rap was fast enough but not too fast.</p>	
<b>Summary Statement</b> The central focus of this project was to determine the genre and the tempo of music, that produces the fastest typing speeds in words per minute.	
<b>Help Received</b> none	