CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2009 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)
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Project Number
J0624

Project Title
Dumb Blonde: Fact or Fantasy?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals
Everyone knows the joke about dumb blondes. Are blondes really dumber than non-blondes? I think blondes are at the same intelligence level as any non-blonde person.

Methods/Materials
I constructed a small test to evaluate intelligence. It contained 5 questions from the MENSA website. I also rated my subjects hair color on a scale from 1 to 5. If they were considered a 1, they had black hair. A 5 was really blonde. To conduct my experiment, I asked random adults in my town to take my test. I did not tell them what the experiment I was doing was, in case that influenced the results. I gave the subject 90 seconds to complete as many questions as they could. After they handed me back the test, I rated their hair color. After all 50 tests were taken, I tallied how many each hair color group got correct on average.

Results
The average numbers correct for each hair color group were: 1: 2.6; 2: 2.4; 3: 2.5; 4: 2.7; 5: 3.0. Although it seemed like blondes were actually smarter than non-blondes, I couldn#t be sure yet. I used the ANOVA statistical test. According to ANOVA, the significance of the differences did not reach a 10% level.

Conclusions/Discussion
In my hypothesis, I expected that blondes are just as smart as non-blondes. According to my results, I was correct. Blonde haired people are at the same intelligence level as people who are not blonde. I was also very interested in the psychological side of my experiment. Many of my subjects complained at the difficulty of the test#s questions, when even I, as an 11 year old, could do them with a little effort.

Summary Statement
I gave a small test to determine whether the #dumb blonde# joke is true: if blondes aren#t really as smart as non-blondes. Blondes proved to be as smart as any other person of different hair color.

Help Received
My dad helped me with statistics, and timed the test takers.