

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2017 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s) **Project Number** Zoe E. Flanagin **J0706 Project Title** The Effects of Multitasking on Test Scores Abstract **Objectives/Goals** The objective of this study was to determine whether memory is better if people are multitasking or not. Methods/Materials Materials: Recording of article on phone, notebook to record results, the game "Subway Surfers" on another phone, 60 test subjects. Procedure: 60 people listened to an article for about one minute, 30 did so while playing the game #Subway Surfers,# and 30 without playing the game. They then answered a series of 5 questions about the details that came up in the article. Results The hypothesis that students who did not play the game would get a higher test score was supported. The students who did not play the game got on average 2.8 questions (out of 5) correct. The students playing the game got only about 1.3 questions correct. **Conclusions/Discussion** There was a statistical difference in my data, and so I know that my results are valid. Multitasking is a very relevant thing, especially in a time where almost everybody owns a phone. I think these results show that multitasking can be a very important thing in relation to productivity and attention. **Summary Statement** I showed that people get an average higher memory test score when they are not multitasking. Help Received Mrs. Garza, Miriam Metzger, Andrew Flanagin