



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR  
2003 PROJECT SUMMARY**

<b>Name(s)</b> <b>Salina M. Rodriguez</b>	<b>Project Number</b> <b>J1718</b>
<b>Project Title</b> <b>Sick of Reading</b>	
<b>Abstract</b> <b>Objectives/Goals</b> Do magazines in doctor's offices test positive for bacteria growth? If people are educated that there is bacteria growth on magazines and books, will they stop reading them? <b>Methods/Materials</b> Methods: 1. Obtain all necessary supplies to grow bacteria. Make agar in petri dishes before going to doctor's offices. 2. Swab magazines in doctors offices. 3. Leave in dark warm environment. 4. Check for bacteria growth. 5. Distribute surveys. 6. Record results.  Materials: Unflavored gelatin and bulion (for agar). Petri dishes. Q-tips. Bottled water. Gloves. Magazines and books from doctor's offices. Microscope and slides. Stain. Surveys. <b>Results</b> Most people were unaware of bacteria on magazines and books found in doctor's offices. They will not read these materials anymore, and either bring their own reading material or watch TV if provided. <b>Conclusions/Discussion</b> Magazines and books found in doctors offices test positive for bacteria growth. When patients, doctors and nurses were surveyed, they understood that when sick people touch these magazines and books, then leave them for another patient, they can infect that other person.	
<b>Summary Statement</b> Touching magazines and books in doctor's offices can be harmful to your health.	
<b>Help Received</b> My mother helped me by driving me to doctor's offices. She also helped me by setting up the digital microscope. She drove me around to get the surveys passed out too. Dr. Larson (LLUMC) asked some colleagues to help fill out surveys.	