CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2005 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)
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Project Number
J1708

Project Title
Music Gives a Helping Hand to Test Scores

Abstract

Objectives/Goals
My project was to see if music would help improve test scores, specifically in mathematical computations. My hypothesis for this project is that classical music, which is softer, will increase test scores.

Methods/Materials
Materials: Classical and Rap CDs, human test subjects, three different mathematical computation sheets that test the same skills, CD player.
Methods: Fifty-on eighth grade students at a middle school in Riverside County took part in this study. Students were given different tests with the same types of mathematical problems and given 5 minutes to complete the test. The control group had no music played during the computations; the second group heard classical music as they completed the problems; and the final group listened to rap music while they completed the questions. Each of the tests were then graded and the data was interpreted.

Results
The test group that listened to classical music during their computations averaged 16.73 correct items; the group with no music averaged 14.59 correct items, and those listening to rap music averaged 13.25 questions correct.

Conclusions/Discussion
The research hypothesis for this project was proven correct. Softer-- classical music, did help students perform better on tests of mathematical calculations, compared to both the control and group listening to rap music.

Summary Statement
This project supports listening to soft music, specifically classical music, to increase test scores in mathematical computations.

Help Received
My mother helped me type the report and my dad acted as a photographer. The district science fair coordinator also offered suggestions to improve my project for the County Science Fair.