

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2007 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)
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Project Number

\$ 0303

Project Title

Relative Pitch

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

Our project was to find out whether musical background and favorite genres of music affect people's relative pitch.

Methods/Materials

We had two guitars. (Guitar 1 and Guitar 2). We played the same string on the two different guitars, except Guitar 1 was in tune, and Guitar 2 was tuned down a whole-step. We slowly tuned up Guitar 2 until they thought that the two notes matched, then we recorded the frequency of the note on a tuning box.

Results

We found that the more musical background someone had, generally, the better their relative pitch. Also, we found that people who most often listened to rock did much better than those who most often listened to rap/hip hop.

Conclusions/Discussion

We believe that people with more musical background did better, because it is possible to train the ear to hear musical notes better. Also, we think that the reason people who most often listened to rock did so much better than those who listen to rap/hip hop, is that rock focuses more on melodies, harmonies, etc., where hip hop tends to focus more on the beat and rhythm.

Summary Statement

We tested relaitve pitch.

Help Received

Used father's equipment, father provided research materials (books).