



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR  
2012 PROJECT SUMMARY**

<b>Name(s)</b> <b>Lauren M. Klauer</b>	<b>Project Number</b> <b>J0412</b>
<b>Project Title</b> <b>Multi-Tasking Teens</b>	
<b>Objectives/Goals</b> The purpose of my science fair project was to see if distractions\multi-tasking altered the time it took at seventh grader to take a test. This topic interested me because nowadays, many teenagers listen to music, watch TV, and are on Facebook while doing their homework. (I'm one guilty of this as well!) Yet, I wondered if multi-tasking between all those tasks was really helping or hurting us. Sure, most think that it gets many things done at once, but does it really? When you try to be efficient and do multiple things at once, do you really distract yourself and make it harder to complete both tasks? Do all these electronics actually slow us down, therefore taking a longer time to get something done? My hypothesis for this experiment was if a group of seventh graders take a timed, four-question test (one multi-tasking, one silent) then, the average of the student's times, as measured in seconds, will be higher with distractions.	
<b>Abstract</b>	
<b>Methods/Materials</b> Procedure: 1) Get a desk in a quiet, outdoor area. 2) Get all materials needed (notebokk, test, pencil, timer). 3) Call students out of class one ny one for trial #1 (nodistractions). 4) Make sure to write down name and time for this trial. 5) Set up trial #2 (notebook, different test, pencil, timer, movie, laptop, iPod). 6) Call same students out one by one for trial #2 (distractions). 7) Make sure to write down name and time for this trial. 8) Gather all data and compare.  Materials: 1) a quiet, outdoor area; 2) seventh grade students; 3) 2 desks; 4) notebook; 5) pencil; 6) timer; 7) laptop; 8) movie; 9) iPod; 10) 2 different four-question tests.	
<b>Results</b> The results were the average time it took a seventh grader to take a test was actually lower with distractions! The average time for Class #1 Trial #1 was 28 seconds. The average time for Class #1 Trial #2 was 24 seconds. The average time for Class #2 Trial #1 was 29 seconds. The average time for Class #2 Trial #2 was 26 seconds.	
<b>Conclusions/Discussion</b> My project's results show that my hypothesis was not supported by the data collected. If I were to do this experimaent again, I would give myself more time. Also, maybe adding more distractions or unfamiliar distractions would be better as well. I could take this experiment to a different level by doing male vs. female too. Altogether though, I had a really fun time doing my project, and sure learned a lot about distractions and multi-tasking in teens.	
<b>Summary Statement</b> The objective of my project was to determine if multi-tasking altered the time it took a seventh grader to take a test; many technological advances have made teenagers want to be online and on their phones while doing homework.	
<b>Help Received</b> Teacher let me use her students for project	