



# CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2014 PROJECT SUMMARY

<b>Name(s)</b> <b>Julie Laporte</b>	<b>Project Number</b>  34425
<b>Project Title</b> <b>In Gender We Trust</b>	
<b>Abstract</b> <b>Objectives/Goals</b> The goal of this project was to determine whether gender has an influence on whom people choose to trust. The experimenter hypothesized that when trusting people, 90% of females are more likely to trust other females, while 10% of females will trust males. On the other hand, 60% of males will trust females, and 40% will trust males. <b>Methods/Materials</b> The first part of this project involved recruiting one male and one female, who read three scripts with three different scenarios into a recorder. 200 male and 200 female middle school students, the test subjects for this experiment, listened to 3 pairs of recordings. Students wrote down their age, grade, and which person they would trust if it were a real life scenario. All of this information remained anonymous throughout testing. The first half of the test subjects listened to the male recording first, whereas the second half of the test subjects listened to the female recording first. <b>Results</b> The results showed that for scenario 1, the majority of both male and female students trusted the male speaker. For scenario 2, there was not a large difference between those who trusted the male speaker and those who trusted the female speaker. For scenario 3, the majority of both male and female students trusted the male speaker. The order of the speakers and grade of the students did have a visible impact on whom the student chose to trust. <b>Conclusions/Discussion</b> The results showed that the experimenter's hypothesis was incorrect; the male speaker was most trusted in some cases. The preference pattern for the most trusted gender was very dependent on the scenario. Due to the fact that the subject of the scenario had an influence on whom each students chose to trust.	
<b>Summary Statement</b> The hypothesis was shown to be incorrect, and if further experimentation us to be conducted, a more even distribution of test subject gender may have an influence on the outcome of the experiment.	
<b>Help Received</b> Dr. Regent Laporte proofread my papers; Gail Heyman gave great advice and helpful input on my papers; Mrs. Elaine Gillum guided me through this process and helped me find test subjects, as well as giving me space and time to work on my project.	