



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2016 PROJECT SUMMARY**

Name(s) Cuyler R. Lusk	Project Number 36207
Project Title Is Smiling Contagious?	
<p style="text-align: center;">Abstract</p> <p>Objectives/Goals The objective of this study is to determine whether smiling is contagious (to test whether smiling is passed on between people).</p> <p>Methods/Materials Mall, 320 random test subjects (human), my smile! Walked through the mall and recorded responses (smile or no smile) of test subjects when smiled at and not smiled at.</p> <p>Results Only 21% of the 160 people I did not smile at smiled at me. 71% of the 160 people I smiled at returned the smile. This showed that more people smiled at me when I smiled at them instead of when I did not smile at them.</p> <p>Conclusions/Discussion Multiple trials of smiling and not smiling at shoppers around the mall determined that smiling is contagious. The data shows that smiling back at someone when they smile is a natural reflex that most people do. This experiment proves the theory of mirror neurons for smiling.</p>	
Summary Statement I determined that humans are more likely to smile when smiled at than when not smiled at.	
Help Received My science teacher helped me make my project study more specific. I planned and performed the experiment by myself.	