



California Science Center
CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2001 PROJECT SUMMARY

Your Name (List all student names if multiple authors.) Richard L Hawkins	Science Fair Use Only
Project Title (Limit: 120 characters. Those beyond 120 will be ignored. See pg. 9) Paranormal: Does Society Believe It or Not?	J1706
	Division X Junior (6-8) _ Senior (9-12)
Preferred Category (See page 5 for descriptions.) 2 - Behavioral Sciences	
Abstract (Include Objective, Methods, Results, Conclusion. See samples on page 14.) Use no attachments. Only text inside these boxes will be used for category assignment or given to your judges. <p>Objective: As I was growing up a lot of things happened to me that I could not explain, things in my own home. My family told me incredible stories of unexplained things that had happened to them throughout their lives. I grew up surrounded by family stories, scary books, Hollywood and the news sharing their paranormal experiences, but even now I ask myself, "Do I believe it or not"? How does science explain paranormal activity? I wondered about my friends, neighbors, teachers and community. Did they believe in the paranormal? This encouraged me to ask the question; "Paranormal, does a society believe it or not?"</p> <p>Materials and Methods: As I began to open books, ask questions and search the Internet, I discovered that paranormal meant different things to different people. Paranormal didn't just mean ghosts, but ESP, dreams, near-death experiences, psychics, Ouija boards, faith experiences with Angels and Demons and many other experiences. After receiving feedback from people I had talked to, I decided the most scientific way to gather, record and report, was through a survey which asked many different questions on the paranormal. I also added a section which gave me some personal information on each person like sex, age and religious background.</p> <p>Results: Early in my research I wrote to the President and Founder of the Ghost/UFO/Alien Research Society. I told her about my project and asked her advice. She said to me, "Most people don't believe in ghosts, until they actually have an encounter with one. Seeing is Believing"> I based my survey and the results on that same idea. I present each question from the survey, add some research and then develop the answers with graphs, charts or percentages to show if society believes it or not.</p> <p>Conclusion: In my hypothesis I said that I thought people would say they did not believe because they would be embarrassed to talk about their experience. I have never really talked about my encounters because I thought people would think I was weird. I was wrong. Society believes and is not afraid to talk about it. There is a great need for this kind of research. My work has been accepted by the Celestial Visions School of Metaphysical Arts Institute library.</p>	
Summary Statement (In one sentence, state what your project is about.) My project is to determine whether or not society believes in the paranormal.	
Help Received in Doing Project (e.g. Mother helped type report; Neighbor helped wire board; Used lab equipment at university X under the supervision of Dr. Y; Participant in NSF Young Scholars Program) See Display Regulation #8 on page 4. Professor Clark Schmidt from the Celestial Visions School of Metaphysical Arts gave me ideas for my surveys and research. My science teachers answered tons of questions and taught me how to use Exceltm. My mom helped me with my typing because I am really slow and she drove me around to get surveys. My dad helped me get surveys. My community helped me fill th	