



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR  
2002 PROJECT SUMMARY**

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<b>Project Title</b> <b>Clutter Confusion</b>	
<b>Objectives/Goals</b> <b>Abstract</b> Purpose: It is our goal to determine the effects of clutter on memory. We have designed a word test to be given to test subjects to determine the effects of clutter on memory. Our objective is to determine how changes in environment and background effect memory retention and/or loss. Investigative Question: Do cluttered backgrounds help or distract the memory? Hypothesis: We think that the busy background will distract the subjects, and they will remember fewer words. <b>Methods/Materials</b> Materials: Subjects (80), notebooks, pencils, list of 20 words on a blank sheet of paper, same list of words on a cluttered piece of paper, stopwatch. Methods: Test 40 subjects (control group). Give each subject 30 seconds to memorize words on a blank piece of paper; take away the list and allow 60 seconds to write down remembered words. Repeat process to 40 subjects in the experimental group, but with a list of words on the cluttered piece of paper. <b>Results</b> (Number of words remembered) Experimental group: 6.90. Control group: 7.42. <b>Conclusions/Discussion</b> 7% more words were remembered by the control group. We think the cluttered page caused interference with the experimental group's ability to memorize words. Our conclusion is that clutter confuses a person's ability to remember what they see and interferes with the ability to memorize.	
<b>Summary Statement</b> Does clutter confusion interfere with a person's ability to memorize words.	
<b>Help Received</b> Our mothers helped with transportation to and from our homes. Our fathers taught us how to generate graphs on the computer.	