

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2006 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

J1706

Project Title

The Correlation of the Perception of Intelligence and the Perception of Attractiveness

Objectives/Goals

The objective of the study was to find out if there was a correlation between the perception of intelligence and the perception of attractiveness.

Abstract

Methods/Materials

Tests which contained six pairs of two pictures of white males were given to 190 males and females. 95 persons were asked to pick the male in each pair they thought was more intelligent. The remaining 95 persons were asked to pick the male in each pair they thought was more attractive.

Four out of six pairs of pictures were perceived as both more intelligent and more attractive by male respondents. Only in pairs 4 and 5 was one white male perceived as more attractive and the other as more intelligent. Five out of six pairs were perceived as both more intelligent and more attractive by female respondents. Only one white male was rated more attractive and the other as more intelligent. Four out of six pairs were perceived as both more intelligent and more attractive by total respondents.

Conclusions/Discussion

The hypothesis was correct because the white males perceived as more attractive were generally perceived as more intelligent. When looking at a statistical correlation, it was discovered that the male correlation between intelligence and attractiveness was low and the results varied a lot. The female respondents had a fairly high correlation and their results varied only a little. The overall correlation was in the middle.

Summary Statement

This project examined the correlation between the perception of intelligence and the perception of attractiveness.

Help Received

Father helped with Microsoft Excel; Mother helped with editing; Science teachers Mrs. Weitkamp and Mrs. Hawkins helped critique the experiment; Dr. Jennifer Deal helped design the tests.