



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2007 PROJECT SUMMARY**

Name(s) Jamie M. Mensching	Project Number J0316
Project Title Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire: A Study in Detecting Lies	
Abstract Objectives/Goals I would like to know how well the average person can detect lying. Methods/Materials I recorded four people telling stories that were either lies or the truth and had 47 other people observe this tape and determine who was lying. Results Hypothesis 1: I thought that the women would be the best at detecting lies. Data shows that: older males did the best young females did the second best young males did the third best older females did the worst On average, women did less well than the males in detecting lying, the exact opposite of what I predicted in my hypothesis. Hypothesis 2: My study tends to show that there is not much of a difference in scores from the two age groups. My second hypothesis was not proven. Conclusions/Discussion Neither of my hypotheses were confirmed. The discussion after each session had some interesting observations.	
Summary Statement I examined how well untrained people were able to detect a lie when it is presented to them in a short story by a stranger in a video tape format.	
Help Received The original idea was mine. My aunt helped me figure out how to test my idea. My mother helped me with my story board. My dad helped me with video taping and entering data into the computer.	