CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2011 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)
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Project Number
31343

Project Title
Which Gender Do You See?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals
The objective of this experiment is to test if people can determine the gender of a person based on only a picture of their eyes. Also, I am trying to discover if there is any significant correlation for people to accurately select genders based on other notable factors such as participant gender, age ranges, and ethnicity.

Methods/Materials
For this project, I constructed a flip book consisting of seventy-five pictures, and some of the pictures had eyebrows while others did not. The pictures came from a variety of sources, such as magazines, internet, and photos of solicited participants. The pictures are also a variety of ethnicities, ages, and genders. Then, I had thirty-eight individual people, who did not know the people in the pictures, look at the flip book. They recorded their results on a key that I created on excel. The key was numbered one to seventy-five and next to each number were boxes, either male or female. The participants who took the test were also of a variety in ethnicity, age, and gender.

Results
Overall, the data demonstrates that a person only has a 56.2% chance to guess the gender of a person correctly with only a picture of their eyes. In addition, male subjects were correctly identified more often than females, by both male and female participants. Also, the prime age for answering the most pictures correctly was twenty to thirty-nine years of age. Additionally, ethnicities had a greater chance of guessing the gender of all the pictures, instead of the pictures of people only of their same ethnicity.

Conclusions/Discussion
After analyzing the data, it was surprising that ethnicities did not choose their own ethnicity correct over all the ethnicities. This contradicted my research, because in my research I found that ethnicities would have a greater recognition of people of their same ethnicity. Even though there are a wide variety of participants in my project, to make the results more conclusive I feel I could take a wider diversity of ages and ethnicities. My hypothesis was supported in my results though, due to the correlations in age, gender, and ethnicities that were discovered.

Summary Statement
This project is about distinguishing the gender of a person based on only their eyes in a picture.

Help Received
My mother showed me how to use MS excel functions to organize my data tables and graphs.