CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2013 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

33949

Project Title

What Sense Is More Dominant: Taste or Smell?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

My objective was to learn which sense is more dominant: taste or smell.

Methods/Materials

Informed consent was obtained from 20 people: ten of each gender. I had all test subjects participate in a private hall to do blindfolded taste tests. I would place a strong, fragrant food under their nose, to offset the aroma of what was placed in their mouth. The goal was to see if I could deceive the sense into thinking they tasted what was under their nose, rather than what was put into their mouth. If they could be deceived, smell was more dominant. If they couldn't be deceived, taste was more dominant.

Results

After testing. My results had shown me taste was the more dominant sense. 51/60 trials resulted in taste being the dominant sense. 86.7% of male trials resulted taste, the other 10% resulted in smell. 83.3% of female trials resulted in taste, while the other 16.7 % percent resulted in smell. As you can see, females had a better sense of smell than males.

Conclusions/Discussion

To conclude, taste was dominant over sense. My project demonstrated that contrary to popular belief, is not entirely dependent on smell. When the test subjects are given a smell to offset that of what they actually tasted, it will not affect their ability to determine what they are eating. This project's contributed knowledge to the field of neurology(how the brain and senses work).

Summary Statement

My project demonstrates knowledge about how the brain processes the senses and how taste and smell are related to each other.

Help Received

My mom helped me with the board; My science teacher set up test dates at lunch; I tested my experiment on all the volunteers

Preliminary