

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2014 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

J0715

Project Title

The Great Reading Mystery: Was It the Book or Was It the Tablet?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

The purpose of the experiment was to determine if there was a difference in reading comprehension from a book to a tablet. I hypothesized that the subjects would have better reading comprehension after reading from a book.

Methods/Materials

Informed Consent forms where collected from 17 subjects. Each read a reading selection from a book and from a Kindle. A multiple choice test for each selection was given. After the experiment, subjects were asked for their device preference; book or Kindle. The materials include; The Giver, Lois Lowery, multiple choice tests on Chapter 1 and 6 with 4 questions each, a Kindle Paperwhite, Bic Round Stic blue and red pens, an Apple Desktop Computer, a HP Photosmart 7525 Printer, Xerox Premium Purpose Paper, a Tanita Yellow Timer, a Daiso Japan D-97 notebook, and 17 subjects.

Results

The average test scores from the book were 1.67% higher than the test scores from the tablet. The majority of the subjects (71%) preferred to read from a book.

Conclusions/Discussion

The conclusion supports the hypothesis; subjects have better reading comprehension after reading from books. Although the difference between the two test scores was small the subjects scored on average higher after reading from a book.

Summary Statement

The experiment was designed to determine if comprehension is different if a subject reads from a book or a tablet.

Help Received

Mother helped type report; Father gave advice; english teacher helped edit; under supervision of science teacher; little sister helped organize subjects