

CWSF 2008 - Ottawa, Ontario



Devin Howard

You are Not a Beautiful and Unique Snowflake

Division: Life Sciences / Environmental Innovation

Category: Senior

Region: Waterloo-Wellington

City: Elora, ON

School: St. John's-Kilmarnock School

Abstract: Malcolm Gladwell's "The Tipping Point" explains how fads are really social epidemics, and can be analyzed in the same way that diseases can be analyzed. There are three rules that govern an epidemic's spread, and understanding those rules can help one to understand social science. I used a controlled computer model to measure the effects of simultaneous social epidemics on a small community of people.

Biography

I am a grade 12 student and am planning on attending University of Waterloo next year for a new program known as the Bachelor of Knowledge Integration. I have always been interested in more than just math, science, or the arts, and since discovering Knowledge Integration I've gotten a lot of pleasure from finding problems and ideas that don't fit within one discipline. My science fair project definitely reflects that. I play soccer and track and field at school, and have participated in two school choirs as well as the school play and debate club for the past three years. I am an avid programmer, reader, and actor. I have acted in historical walking tours in my hometown of Elora, Ontario for six years. I hope that success in science fair and school can help me get the a well-rounded and comprehensive education in a variety of fields. I am a fanatical environmentalist, and I know that if I want to help solve world issues, I won't be able to do so from the limited perspective of just one discipline.