

# CWSF 2008 - Ottawa, Ontario



## Sarah Langer

### Human Decomposition

**Division:** Physical & Mathematical Sciences / None

**Category:** Senior

**Region:** Peterborough

**City:** Buckhorn, ON

**School:** Lakefield District Secondary & Intermediate

**Abstract:** I explored the topic of human decomposition by studying rates of decomposition in fresh and salt water by using pig specimens which are very similar to humans. The salinity of the water had a large effect on this rate. Those in fresh water decomposed much faster than those in salt water. However, the stages of decomposition remained the same in both fresh and salt water.

### Biography

My name is Sarah Langer, and I am an active student in my school. I am on the Student Advisory Council, and participate in fundraisers involving the gorilla conservation fund. I enjoy being able to help out in my school as well as my community. For as long as I have remembered, I have been interested in the mystery behind death. Whether it be the mummies of ancient civilizations or the recent mystery's of our time. This high interest both inspired and motivated me to continue with my investigation into human decomposition. Taking this interest and great opportunity given to me, I wish to attend university for forensics.

### Awards

### Value

Petro-Canada Peer Innovation Award - Senior - Ontario North & East Sponsor: Petro-Canada	\$200
The University of Western Ontario Scholarship Bronze Medallist - \$1000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Western Ontario	\$1 000
University of Ottawa Entrance Scholarship Senior Bronze Medallist - \$1000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Ottawa	\$1 000
Bronze Medal - Life Sciences - Senior Sponsor: Pfizer Canada	\$300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2 500</b>