

CWSF 2012 - Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island



Ethan Milne

The Power of the Placebo

Challenge: Health

Category: Junior

Region: Avon Maitland-Huron Perth

City: Goderich, ON

School: Goderich District Collegiate Institute

Abstract: This study investigated the power of the placebo effect on grade eight students. They were asked to self rate their well being from 1-10 in six different areas. Each student was given a placebo wristband to wear for one week and then re-tested. The placebo bands had a significant impact on their subjective reporting. I concluded that the grade eight students had been Mesmerized.

Biography

My science fair project was inspired by friends wearing Power Balance Bands to improve their performance in sport. Being skeptical, I wondered if there was anything to these expensive rubber bands with holograms. This led me to discover the power of the placebo effect. Future plans would be to see if the placebo effect is age related. Are younger kids more influenced by a placebo? My career goal is to attend medical school and become an invasive radiologist. Current hobbies include playing the violin, reading, and online games. I am also interested in science and skepticism. My favourite pod cast is Quirks and Quarks and my favourite TV show is The Big Bang Theory. In the past I have placed one level from provincials in public speaking. Currently, I am enrolled one year ahead in Math and English at school. Every summer, I spend a month at camp in the wilderness of Algonquin Park. My advice to succeed in science fair is to do what you love. Then, you will be charismatic and enthusiastic speaking about your topic to the judges. I hope to always be a critical thinker and promote science and skepticism.

Awards

Value

Excellence Award - Junior - Bronze Medal Sponsor: Nuclear Waste Management Organization	\$300
Western University Scholarship Bronze Medallist - \$1000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Western University	\$1 000
Total	\$1 300