

CWSF 2012 - Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island



Briony Merritt, Ellen Withers

Creative Capacity: Discovering the Education Path to Divergent Thinking

Challenge: Discovery

Category: Senior

Region: Halifax

City: Halifax, NS

School: Citadel High School

Abstract: This investigation examines the retention of divergent thinking within the Canadian education system. Studies suggest that children contain the ability to think 'divergently', but flaws in schooling methods cause them to progressively lose this skill. This experiment aims to determine whether the International Baccalaureate program, private schools marketed as 'creative', or a standard Nova Scotia diploma program harnesses better divergent thinking in their students.

Biographies

Briony - My name is Briony Merritt and I am a grade 11 student at Citadel High School in Halifax, Nova Scotia. My family moved from England three years ago and really enjoy living in Canada! I am currently in the International Baccalaureate program and plan to attend university to study English or psychology. I also enjoy singing, playing guitar and would love to become an author some day! This is my second time at the CWSF and I love the experience of meeting new people and seeing the amazing projects people have created. This year, my partner Ellen Withers and I completed a psychological experiment in order to assess divergent thinking capabilities ...

Ellen - My name is Ellen Withers, I am 17 years-old and live in Halifax Nova Scotia. Some of my interests include skiing, basketball, participating in model united nations and volunteering at my local library! This is my first trip to CWSF and I am very excited and grateful for the opportunity to participate. My partner, Briony Merritt, and I did a psychology experiment about divergent thinking capabilities in different education streams.

Awards

Value

Excellence Award - Senior - Bronze Medal Sponsor: Nuclear Waste Management Organization	\$300
University of Ottawa Entrance Scholarship Senior Bronze Medallist - \$1000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Ottawa	\$1 000
Western University Scholarship Bronze Medallist - \$1000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Western University	\$1 000
Total	\$2 300