

CWSF 2013 - Lethbridge, Alberta



Natasha Prokopchuk

Mind Your Caffeine

Challenge: Health

Category: Intermediate

Region: Northern Saskatchewan

City: La Ronge, SK

School: Churchill Composite H.S.

Abstract: This experiment was conducted to test the reliability of the placebo effect. Throughout three days, participants performed exercises before and after receiving a substance they were told would increase their performance. A placebo was given twice, only once to the participants' knowledge. The data was then analysed to see if the participants' expectations had affected their performance.

Biography

My name is Natasha Ann Prokopchuk, and I am fifteen years old. I love singing, writing, reading, spending time with my family and friends, and trying to learn American Sign Language. Although I'm not exactly sure what career I'm going to choose, I plan to study education. My dream- and goal- is to one day publish a novel. Science, as one can probably tell, has never been a favorite subject of mine, and I have often struggled with it in school. However, I have learned much from this project, and I've benefited from it a lot. I've learned that, when doing an experiment according to a set timeline, one must be 100% prepared. This is my advice for anyone wanting to do a project: Sit down a good deal of time before starting and write out exactly what you will need, not leaving out any detail, because every missed detail leads to variables. This is the reason I am not planning to further investigate this topic; there are too many uncontrollable variables. I was inspired to do this project by my classmates and my teacher, who were curious about the dependence and addiction to coffee that many people experience.

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