

CWSF 2013 - Lethbridge, Alberta



Siani Grice

The Perils of Texting in Class ... ;)

Challenge: Discovery

Category: Junior

Region: Pacific Northwest

City: Smithers, BC

School: Smithers Secondary

Abstract: I used comprehension tests to investigate how much information people miss when they are texting. Texting during a comprehension test lowered the mean score by 10.5%. When subjects read the story, they tended to miss interpretive questions, but remember details. When subjects listened to the story they missed both interpretation and details.

Biography

I really like music! I play violin and trumpet, and I'm in two bands -- the Valley Youth Fiddlers and Twisted String. Twisted String is amazing ? it's a group of fiddlers who play very unusual, offbeat tunes, wear crazy clothes and commit Random Acts of Violins. I play trumpet in the school's Junior Concert Band, and I also like English and Math. I first came up with the idea for my science fair project because my friends were irritating me. I would be talking to them and instead of listening, they'd start texting. When I was doing my background research I found this really cool neurotransmitter called dopamine. One effect is that the more you text the harder it is to stop. That's called a dopamine loop and next year I might do a project on how to get out of the loop. For anyone who plans to do a project, you totally should! Don't worry if it doesn't work out the way you expected ? solving problems and discovering new things is what it's all about.

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