

# CWSF 2013 - Lethbridge, Alberta



## Mahta Samani, Zoe Dingeman

### Plagiarism: How Much and Why?

**Challenge:** Discovery

**Category:** Senior

**Region:** Calgary Youth

**City:** Calgary, AB

**School:** Webber Academy

**Abstract:** Our project, "Plagiarism: How Much and Why?" is a study on the rates of plagiarism amongst Webber Academy's high school students, and the most effective method for preventing it. In our study, we screened anonymous essays on plagtracker.com and determined the actual rates of plagiarism, then administered surveys regarding its motivations, and used this data to make a recommendation for reducing these rates.

#### Biographies

Mahta - Hello, my name is Mahta Samani, an athlete, a musician, but mostly an avid researcher. My partner and I got the idea for our project after we did some research about plagiarism and learned how big of an issue it is in universities across North America. Thus, we became very curious about this topic and decided to find out what the actual plagiarism rates are at our own high school, Webber Academy; it is the top ranked school in Alberta and many of its graduates attend top-ranked universities. By using this relevant research, we were then able to determine possible motivations for students to plagiarize and an effective prevention method from st...

Zoe - My name is Zoe Dingeman, and I am a grade 11 student at Webber Academy. My partner and I got our idea after we did some research on plagiarism and learned how big of an issue it is in North American universities. However, we couldn't find much information on rates of plagiarism in high schools, and became curious about what the actual rates were at our own high school. Because our school, Webber Academy, is the top ranked school in Alberta, and many of its graduates attend top-ranked universities, we thought that a study on its plagiarism rates and determining an effective prevention method from student surveys would be relevant. We would lik...

#### Awards

#### Value

Excellence Award - Senior - Bronze Medal Sponsor: Youth Science Canada	\$100
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2 100</b>

Youth Science Canada  
PO Box 297  
Pickering ON L1V 2R4  
www.youthscience.ca / info@youthscience.ca  
416-341-0040