

CWSF 2016 - Montreal, Quebec



Emily Zbaraschuk

Music, Rocks and all that Jazz - How Music Affects Learning

Challenge: Discovery

Category: Junior

Region: Prince Albert & Northeast Saskatchewan

City: Prince Albert, SK

School: Meath Park School

Abstract: This study examined how listening to jazz and pop music affected student learning. Jazz music was found to be the best listening condition for improving semantic recall, while silence was best for incidental learning. The investigation showed that some learners benefit from listening to music; others do not. Most students were unable to predict accurately whether music would improve or impair their learning.

Biography

Emily Zbarschuk is a grade seven student at Meath Park Public School, located 50 km east of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. She enjoys reading, writing, travelling, cooking, and algebra, and can often be found creating artwork on her iPad or sketch pad. For the last seven years she has played piano, and it was this love of music, along with her fascination with behavioural sciences and the brain, that inspired this project. Her experiment examined the effects of jazz and pop music on memory, leading her to conclude that jazz music appears to enhance learning for many students. In future investigations, she would like to study if this improvement is due to its ability to soothe students or block out distractions. She is also wondering if her findings could be used to help dementia patients. Emily is thrilled to be travelling to Montreal, and looks forward to meeting other students with a keen interest in science.

Awards

Value

Excellence Award - Junior - Silver Medal Sponsor: Youth Science Canada	
Western University Scholarship Silver Medallist - \$2000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: Western University	\$2 000
Total	\$2 000