

CWSF 2017 - Regina, Saskatchewan



Sabrina Blais

Exploring Pareidolia

Challenge: Health

Category: Junior

Region: Sunset Country

City: Balmertown, ON

School: Golden Learning Centre

Abstract: Pareidolia is the psychological phenomenon where the brain interprets random data as a familiar pattern of "something" where that "something" isn't there. This project tests if age and gender affect human's perception of pareidolia. 22 images were shown to 56 participants, 12 images were pareidolia prone and 10 were normal images. Results show a clear trend in which as participants aged, they perceived more pareidolia.

Biography

My name is Sabrina Blais and I am 13 years old. I currently attend Golden Learning Centre school in Red Lake Ontario, a small mining community in Northwestern Ontario. I am bilingual and speak English and French fluently. Some of my interests include literature, competitive dance, public speaking, researching, and mathematics. One of my important achievements has been winning first place at the regional speaking competition twice. During my childhood, I always looked up at the clouds in the sky and made out figures. I never understood why I was able to do this, until I found out about Pareidolia. This inspired my project. I hope to further my research by expanding my age range and testing more people. Advice that I would give to students that are thinking about creating a project would be to choose something that interests or is new to them. By doing this they will become passionate to expand their knowledge on the topic. This year I chose a topic that was new to me, which made it very enjoyable to further my knowledge. The learning process of this project inspired me to work harder and eventually make it to the Canada Wide Science Fair.

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