

# CWSF 2015 - Fredericton, New Brunswick



## Ellena Schuffert

### Who knew being "dense" could be better! Mysteries of what the brain hears Part 2

**Challenge:** Discovery

**Category:** Senior

**Region:** Pacific Northwest

**City:** Smithers, BC

**School:** Smithers Secondary

**Abstract:** Parents are greatly encouraged to raise their children in a musical environment. There are enormously conflicting opinions on raising a bilingual child. I wanted to see if being bilingual and/or being a musician gives you advantages to achieving a higher Working Memory Index score. I also wanted to see if being bilingual and/or being a musician increases your Auditory Recall. The Musicians' WMI was higher.

#### Biography

I love music, science, and languages. I have done science fair projects since grade 3, and I also play the violin. I just participated in our high school musical "Love's Labours Lost" as part of the pit band, where I played the trombone. Besides French and English I also speak German. I am part of the Youth Activation Council for Special Olympics. My favourite subject in school is Aviation, which I am looking forward to tutoring next year! I live on a small farm with three goats and a few other small animals. When I grow up I would like to work for the CSA or for ESA as an astronaut. Last year I did a pilot project, where I wanted to see if being bilingual and/or being a musician gives your brain advantages to hearing "better". The brain is an object of mystery and wonder, consisting of gooey, slimy, wobbly gelatinous stuff, smelling like blue cheese. This year I followed up on last year's project with a standardized working memory test. Next year I might do a long-term memory test. Every year I learn things that I never expected. Selecting a topic that is interesting encourages me to learn more.

#### Awards

#### Value

Excellence Award - Senior - Bronze Medal Sponsor: Youth Science Canada	
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>\$2 000</b>