

CWSF 2018 - Ottawa, Ontario



Tanner Altenkirk

The Method of Loci: A New Approach to Memory Challenges

Challenge: Discovery

Category: Intermediate

Region: Chignecto West

City: Lower Onslow, NS

School: Central Colchester Junior High School

Abstract: I studied how training seventh grade students in the Method of Loci for card memorization can actually lead to changes in their digit memory and word memory spans. I also compared the current memory resources that schools use to see if these changes are significant. This is important to research because of the many students in middle schools across Canada who struggle with reading comprehension.

Biography

My name is Tanner Bailey Altenkirk and I live with my Mom, Dad, Sister, and Brother in Truro, N.S. I enjoy school, and love to bike. the inspiration for this project came to me when I began reading the book "Moonwalking with Eisenstein" by Joshua Foer. this book is about the USA Memory championships and an ancient Greek mnemonic strategy called the Method of Loci that competitors use to remember vast quantities of information. I was intrigued by the concept of being able to increase one's memory span, so I tried created my own Method of Loci system using instructions in the book and I immediately fell in love with memorizing and memory techniques. So, naturally, I began to ponder ways that I could study these techniques and learn more about their applicability in the modern world. This led to my research on how the Method of Loci effects an individual's success when attempting memory challenges that they have not been trained for. By using the scientific method I have learned so much about this and I hope to continue learning in the future.

Awards

Value

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