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Does Music Affect Test Scores?

This project was designed to determine if playing music while taking a simple multiplication test affects how well a person scores. The procedure for this experiment was to hand out permission slips a week before to each 3rd grader for each parent to sign. After a week, go to the classroom and gather materials. Then, hand out multiplication tests to each 3rd grade student and time them for two minutes. Perform the multiplication test with no music and collect tests from students. Next, do the test with classical music playing in the background and collect the tests from the students. Finally, perform the test with dance music playing in the background and collect the tests. At the end, thank the children and explain the purpose and importance of the experiment. The outcome of this study revealed that the overall correct test scores added up to a total of 399 with no music. All of the correct scores added up together for classical music was 451 and for dance music, the total correct scores was 475. Therefore, the subjects performed significantly higher with dance music playing in the background. The data analysis indicates that the subjects performed considerably better on the math test with dance music playing in the background. The students scored the worst on the math test while no music was playing, and the classical music scored in the middle.