

Meghan Shanahan  
*Musical Mice*

This project is a test of how two very different, instrumental genres affect memory and reasoning skills by using mice as a test subject. Twenty-seven lab mice were placed into three groups in three different rooms. A maze was created that was used for each group throughout the experiment. During the day music was played in two of the rooms; one with techno music and the other with Mozart music. The final group listened to no music as a control. The music was played for six hours a day and this went on for six weeks. Each group was timed when they ran the maze three times a week and comparisons were made between their averages in hopes of finding some difference between the groups to see if the music really did have an effect on how quickly they ran the maze. Observations were taken on behavior, and it was believed that the Mozart group would decrease their time the most. Though the results were close, the music did seem to make a difference. The original average time taken for all the mice to run the maze was three minutes, four seconds. The Mozart group completed the maze in fourteen seconds, the control group completed in twenty-four seconds, and the techno group completed it in 26 seconds as an average. Their behavior, though, was more interesting. The techno group had high energy and were very skittish. The Mozart group was accurate and seemed calmer. The control group were the most social and friendly of all the groups.