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Mnemonics and Memory

The purpose of this experiment was to see if exposure to mnemonic devices such as songs and pictures affected a person's ability to remember information better. I predicted that if a person is exposed to a mnemonic device, they would remember a fact more easily. I collected my data by exposing three groups (classes) of 12-14 year old middle school students to three different mnemonic devices over a few-day spans and then giving them tests evaluating their memory of a set of facts they experienced through their normal school lessons and the mnemonic devices. Half of all the classes' subjects were not exposed to the mnemonic devices, being the control group and took the tests only with knowledge they had gained from their normal school lessons. From Class F, the mnemonic subjects on average scored 5.63 points out of 8 on their test. The non-mnemonic subjects scored an average of 5.74 points. In Class O, the subjects exposed to the mnemonic device scored 6.37 points out of 8 versus the non-mnemonic subjects' average of 6.29. In Class R, the mnemonic subjects scored 9 out of 12. Non-mnemonic subjects scored 10.13. My overall findings are inconclusive. The mnemonic device only helped subjects get a higher average test score in one instance, and all mnemonic versus non-mnemonic scores were close. The mnemonic devices did not affect the subjects' test scores. I believe that mnemonics can be effective in assisting memory; they just need to be used in a certain way.