

Victoria Dunivan
Music to My Flash Cards

Many times when people listen to music while studying they can be affected by the type of music playing. The question was how do different genres of music affect the ability to recall math facts. The subjects listened to different genres of music while answering flashcards. I recorded how many he or she answered correctly. The control was the subjects listened to no music and answered questions. Then, music was played (rock first, then pop, country, depressing, rap, classical). I held up flash cards, matching student's grade level, in front of the subject. The amount correct out of twenty was then recorded. To make sure every subject was answering in about the same time I counted five seconds for each card. If the subject did not give an answer before five seconds I continue to next card. I repeated this procedure with all genres of music. During the experiment, I noticed that when the subjects were tested with music they would tap their foot to the beat and keep a rhythm when answering the questions. I found that most people did okay with whatever they listened to, but some also did very poorly when listening to music and did fine without music. It just depends on the person's preferences and overall math ability. The hypothesis was not supported. It was not supported because pop music was distracting. I learned that a specific genre does not determine how well you will do academics.