



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR  
2009 PROJECT SUMMARY**

<b>Name(s)</b> Erin N. Vistnes	<b>Project Number</b>  29885
<b>Project Title</b> Dumb Blonde: Fact or Fantasy?	
<b>Objectives/Goals</b> Everyone knows the joke about dumb blondes. Are blondes really dumber than non-blondes? I think blondes are at the same intelligence level as any non-blonde person. <b>Abstract</b> I constructed a small test to evaluate intelligence. It contained 5 questions from the MENSA website. I also rated my subjects hair color on a scale from 1 to 5. If they were considered a 1, they had black hair. A 5 was really blonde. To conduct my experiment, I asked random adults in my town to take my test. I did not tell them what the experiment I was doing was, in case that influenced the results. I gave the subject 90 seconds to complete as many questions as they could. After they handed me back the test, I rated their hair color. After all 50 tests were taken, I tallied how many each hair color group got correct on average. <b>Methods/Materials</b> I constructed a small test to evaluate intelligence. It contained 5 questions from the MENSA website. I also rated my subjects hair color on a scale from 1 to 5. If they were considered a 1, they had black hair. A 5 was really blonde. To conduct my experiment, I asked random adults in my town to take my test. I did not tell them what the experiment I was doing was, in case that influenced the results. I gave the subject 90 seconds to complete as many questions as they could. After they handed me back the test, I rated their hair color. After all 50 tests were taken, I tallied how many each hair color group got correct on average. <b>Results</b> The average numbers correct for each hair color group were: 1: 2.6; 2: 2.4; 3: 2.5; 4: 2.7; 5: 3.0. Although it seemed like blondes were actually smarter than non-blondes, I couldn't be sure yet. I used the ANOVA statistical test. According to ANOVA, the significance of the differences did not reach a 10% level. <b>Conclusions/Discussion</b> In my hypothesis, I expected that blondes are just as smart as non-blondes. According to my results, I was correct. Blonde haired people are at the same intelligence level as people who are not blonde. I was also very interested in the psychological side of my experiment. Many of my subjects complained at the difficulty of the test's questions, when even I, as an 11 year old, could do them with a little effort.	
<b>Summary Statement</b> I gave a small test to determine whether the #dumb blonde# joke is true: if blondes aren't really as smart as non-blondes. Blondes proved to be as smart as any other person of different hair color.	
<b>Help Received</b> My dad helped me with statistics, and timed the test takers.	