



California Science Center
CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2001 PROJECT SUMMARY

Your Name (List all student names if multiple authors.) Alyssa M. Fuhrman	Science Fair Use Only <h1 style="margin: 0;">J1704</h1>
Project Title (Limit: 120 characters. Those beyond 120 will be ignored. See pg. 9) Gender Gap - Fact or Myth: A Study of Science Achievement	Division <u>X</u> Junior (6-8) _ Senior (9-12)
Preferred Category (See page 5 for descriptions.) 17 - Social Sciences (Junior Division Only)	
Abstract (Include Objective, Methods, Results, Conclusion. See samples on page 14.) Use no attachments. Only text inside these boxes will be used for category assignment or given to your judges.	
<p>Objective: Experts believe that girls do not excel in science for a variety of reasons. I investigated this claim to determine if a gender gap really exists, and if teacher gender influences student interest and performance in science.</p> <p>Materials and Methods: Gender was determined for the 2000 California State Science Fair by consulting multicultural baby books. Junior and senior male and female students, teachers, and judges were highlighted, tallied, and averaged.</p> <p>Results: Analysis revealed that girls and boys are equally represented in Junior and Senior divisions. Male highschool teachers were somewhat more prevalent. Judges were predominately male.</p> <p>Discussion: Girls are as capable as boys at achieving high levels in science. More male highschool teachers does not appear to influence girl participation. Science competition may not be indicative of typical female achievement. Grades and extracurricular science participation may be a better indication of possible gender differences. An attempt should be made at the state level to include more female judges as this may influence students to pursue science careers.</p>	
Summary Statement (In one sentence, state what your project is about.) To prove or disprove the claim that boys outperform girls in science achievement.	
Help Received in Doing Project (e.g. Mother helped type report; Neighbor helped wire board; Used lab equipment at university X under the supervision of Dr. Y; Participant in NSF Young Scholars Program) See Display Regulation #8 on page 4. My mother helped me look up some of the names in baby books and helped me write my abstract.	