

# Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair 2015 PROJECT SUMMARY

**Name:** Zoe Thomas    **Grade:** 8    **School:** Marshall Middle School    **Teacher:** E. Gillum

## **Project Title:**

To Wear, Or Not To Wear?

## **Abstract**

### **Objectives/Goals**

Students and children today are creating cliques and deciding who their friends are based on what they themselves or others wear. Clothing is categorized by different stereotypes because of style, price, brand, texture, and color. The goal of this project was to discover how students' opinions and negative stereotypes on clothing change along with students' ages and grades. It was also to see if any specific grade had a major effect with students' opinions.

### **Hypothesis**

The hypothesis for this project was that the Dislike percentages would steadily grow larger, then rapidly grow by eighth grade.

### **Methods/Materials**

Different pictures were used for the students grades Kindergarten to Eighth grade to respond to either negatively or positively. Younger students from grades kindergarten to fourth grade were given a booklet with the pictures in color for them to circle, meaning they enjoy wearing it themselves or if others wear it, cross it out, meaning they do not enjoy the clothing when wearing it themselves or if others do so, or do not cross out or circle the pictures and simply leave them be, meaning they still enjoy them, even if they would not wear them themselves. The older students, grades fifth to eighth grade, were given four letters, A, meaning the student the clothes and would wear them all of the time, B, meaning that the student enjoys them but would wear them only at certain times, C, meaning they enjoy the clothes but would not wear them, and D, meaning the students dislikes the clothes entirely to describe what they felt about each grade.

### **Results**

The students from all of the different grades seemed to have the same results. Their percentage numbers were all very close to each other. They had similar opinions on the categories of clothing. Between grades, there was no difference in one certain category of clothing for either dislike or like percentages over 50%. The percentages did not gradually go up in number or down, but randomly up or down, even if by a little.

### **Conclusions/Discussion**

This experiment shows how grade may not be what effects different opinions and negative discrimination on clothing with students under the ninth grade.

### **Summary Statement**

Students were asked for their opinions on different clothing categorized under different stereotypes used in schools and by society including all different ages. It was discovered that age and grade does not affect how children look at the clothing, or how their opinions change.

### **Help Received**

Diane Hanaway (mentor), Lisa and Walter Thomas (parents), Mrs. Elaine Gillum (science teacher), Marshall Middle School, and Innovations Academy.