Whistle While You Work It

Wolfe, Mikayla (School: Tioga High School)

The purpose of this experiment was to determine if different music genres have an effect on memory, repetitive, and spatial tasks. Procedure: 1. Give five words to the subject, and them time them while they play the memory game without music. Once the subject has finished the memory game, ask them to repeat the five words that were given. 2. Give a shuffled deck of cards to the subject, and have them arrange the cards into four piles by suits (hearts, diamonds, spades, and clubs). Use the stopwatch to time them. 3. Have the subject walk a certain number of paces heel-to-toe (ex: five forward, three left, seven back), and then close their eyes and touch their nose. Use the stopwatch to time them. 4. Repeat steps 1-3 with three different genres of music (jazz, rock, and orchestral) and record the differences in time and behavior. After analyzing the results of the experiment, I have concluded that the hypothesis does not exactly correlate. I discovered that it wasn't so much the music that had an effect on time and performance. After looking at results, it became clear that the type of task participants did is what determined whether or not time and performance either declined or improved.