

Katarina Bulovic and Rachel Freed Sussman, Grade 12
“Which Musical Genre Prompts the Greatest Recall of Information?”
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This experiment tested whether the lyrics of original songs would be remembered at different rates depending on the song’s genre: either pop, country, or jazz. The control was spoken words. We hypothesized that pop music would lead to the greatest information recall.

We tested 5-11 year old children at a local aftercare by asking participants to listen to two word lists: one spoken and one sung (in any aforementioned genre). Participants then wrote down words they remembered. The words were of similar difficulty, there were twelve unique words per list, and the lists were repeated twice per song.

Of the 44 participants, we found a statistically significant difference between retention of spoken words and lyrics, with participants remembering spoken words at a much higher rate. Music retention appears to be independent of genre, genre preference, gender, familiarity, and instrument bias.

Experimental problems include that we tested a cluster sample of one elementary school, with voluntary response, nonresponse, and undercoverage bias, as well as convenience sampling. Extraneous variables include testing in a distraction-prone hallway, tired children, and varied song diction. A follow-up experiment would be a longitudinal study exposing children to the same music multiple times and comparing those retention rates.

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