



Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

2024 Individual Project Abstract Form

Please print 2 copies of the completed form. Sign both copies, keep 1 for your notebook and submit 1 copy to your Regional Fair Director with your other paperwork.

Title of Project: Conversation Topics

Finalist's Name: Asha Jeter Patel

School and City: Sacred Heart of Jesus Boulder

Sponsor's Name: Holly Jeter

Category: Behavioral & Social Sciences (BEHA)

Division: Junior (6th - 8th grades)

Abstract (250 words or less):

Abstract

I conducted the project, "What questions make people uncomfortable?" This topic was of interest to help determine what questions people should ask (or avoid) when having conversations, so as not to cross personal boundaries. I was also interested in comparing discomfort levels for the different ages and genders, to see how different or similar the results are. When testing, forty participants answered a twenty-question survey wherein respondents self-reported their discomfort level for each question using a Likert scale. The survey was anonymous except in eliciting respondents' age and gender. The questions ranged from general to intrusive; leading to loaded. The results were graphed and analyzed as between adults/children and male/female. The data show that questions with higher emotive content produce a higher discomfort level. The results also show that the children's and females' average discomfort was higher. This information can be useful when having conversations or to know what questions to ask while still being appropriate. Lastly, it is observed that societal standards had a gendered effect on respondents' discomfort level.

I hereby certify that the above statements are correct and the information provided in the Abstract is the result of one year's research. I also attest that the above properly reflects my own work.

Finalist's Signature:

Asha Jeter Patel

Date:

2/26/24

In addition, all students **must** complete the ISEF Student Checklist (1A), Research Plan, Approval Form (1B), and Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1), and any other ISEF forms required for this type of project. See the International Rules and Guidelines for form requirements. Return COPIES of all of these forms to your Regional Fair Director with your **Finalist Verification/Permission** Form. A signed copy of this form must be included in your notebook.