Name_____Period_____Due_____

Name_____Period_____Due_____

Background Research

The purpose of background research for a science fair project is to explain what you already know and to find out what you don't know. This will help you set up your project, develop a good hypothesis, and be able to explain your results (especially to science fair judges). Research helps develop a valid "because" statement in your hypothesis! Continue to research during your science project!

Research your chosen topic for the science fair by using any of the following: science books, actual scientists, science magazines, and information online. You should try to research experiments that have already been done about your topic. The most important thing about the background research is to keep a record of the resources you use!

Use the following websites to help you understand the purpose of background research, what exactly you should research, and how it should be formatted:

Science Buddies: http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_background_research_plan.shtml

Discovery Science Fair Central: http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/Science-Fair-Projects/Investigation-Conduct-Background-Research.html

Requirements:

1. Research the scientific concepts and previous experiments done for your project topic. **Note:** Some domains such as .com, .org, and .net can be purchased and used by any individual. However, the domain .edu is reserved for colleges and universities, while .gov denotes a government website. These two are usually credible sources for information. Wikipedia can be a useful starting point if you don't know much about your subject matter, but **may not** count as one of your 3 required sources.
2. Write an explanation of what you found out, one full paragraph (5 sentences or more) for each of three different resources.
3. The research needs to be in your own words. You will be looking up information about concepts in science that are probably well established, but the most important thing will be to find a way to explain them in your own words. **DO NOT COPY** word for word!
4. List each of your three research resources at the beginning of your paragraph explaining what you discovered. Use enough detail when listing your source that someone else could find the same source again. "Google" is NOT enough information!
5. Your three resource paragraph will became part of your experiment write-up. It may be time efficient to type up your research and attach to this page rather than fill in the resource chart by hand.

Name_____Period_____Due_____

Resource #1	
Summary Paragraph: Use your own words At least 5 sentences	

Resource #2	
Summary Paragraph: Use your own words At least 5 sentences	

Resource #3	
Summary Paragraph: Use your own words At least 5 sentences	