

## Science Fair Display Board Guidelines

**Sections:** Purpose (Question), Hypothesis, Background Research, Materials, Procedures, Variables, Data, Results, Conclusion, Future Research (New Question), Bibliography, Abstract (if required by your teacher)

All sections should be typed using the same font. Please choose from: **Arial**, **Arial Rounded**, **Comics Sans**, or Times New Roman.

### **Purpose (Question):**

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- State the reason for doing this project.
- Relate it to real life.
- Conclude with the question.

### **Hypothesis:**

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- Write your hypothesis with its reasons.
- The sentence should indicate what you expect the dependent variable (effect) to be on the independent variable (cause) and why this effect will happen (because).
- Give the reasons to support your hypothesis.

Sample format: It is hypothesized that \_\_\_\_\_ will result in \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Background Research:**

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- Summarize your research so that the important facts fit on one page.

### **Materials:**

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- List all materials
- Be specific to amount and types (i.e. 50 ml of tap water; 100 ml graduated cylinder). Use brand names where appropriate.

### **Variables:**

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- Independent variable is what you are changing.
- Dependent variable is what you are measuring or observing as a result of the change.

### **Procedures:**

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- Write your procedure in detail.
- Number steps.
- Metric units should be used.
- Another person should be able to follow your procedure without having to talk to you.
- Do not copy procedures from another experiment. They must be in your own words and in complete sentences.

### **Data:**

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- Use Microsoft Excel to make charts and graphs.
- Each graph, table, or chart should have a title.

### **Results:**

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- Write exactly what you did during your experiment and what happened. Be specific, using numbers for your data. Describe each test or test object and its results.
- Include any observations.
- This is written in paragraph form.

### **Conclusion:**

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- Summarize your results in a sentence or two. Be specific.
- Give your interpretation of what the results mean. You can put your opinions here.
- Restate your hypothesis.
- Is your hypothesis accepted or rejected? Tell why, supporting your statements with your results.
- State any limitations that may have influenced your results or conclusions.
- Discuss any errors and explain how they might have affected your results.
- What is the importance of this experiment? What impact could the results have?

### **Future Research:**

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- What improvements could have been done?
- How would you change your experiment? What would you have done differently?
- You might also address any research you might want to conduct in the future.

**Bibliography:**

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- List all sources used in alphabetical order by author's last name or first word of the title.
- Follow MLA format for your bibliography.

**Abstract:**

Use science words – checked, observed, monitored, watched, looked, concluded, conducted, etc.

Don't use I, we, our – remove the pronouns.

Write it in the past tense. Abstract should be between 150 and 250 words.