

Name:

Period:



## Science Fair Background Research Report

The purpose of the Background Research Report is for you to gain knowledge about your Science Fair Project topic. This way you will be able to interpret the results of your experiment and draw conclusions based on the previous knowledge you gained by writing this report. This report should NOT be your experiment plan/procedure; it should discuss information related to the topic you are studying.

DO NOT provide the expected result of your experiment in this report. In the real world, scientists conduct experiments where no one truly knows the answer or the outcome. If everyone already knew the outcome of the experiment, the scientist wouldn't get paid to conduct it!

Your supporting paragraphs should discuss information about your experiment topic, but you should try to set up the need for your experiment. Pretend you are trying to convince Mrs. Elsisy that your experiment is needed and that you should get paid to do it. For example:

“Although scientists understand much about how plants grow, plant anatomy, and the process of photosynthesis, it is still unclear whether pea plants will grow best in white light, red light, or green light. Optimal plant growth is important to provide enough food for a growing population and serve areas of the world where not enough food grows. Thus, this science fair experiment will test which color of light plants grow the best in.”

Lastly, remember that scientific reports are always **written in the third person**.

**Do not use “my” or “I” in your writing.**

For example:

- 1) Instead of saying “My hypothesis is...”, you should say “The hypothesis of this experiment is...”
- 2) Instead of saying “This research report is about plant growth because plants are an important food source.” say “Plants are an important food source.”
- 3) Instead of saying: “I think there will be less plant growth in green light because...”, you should say “It is likely there will be less plant growth in green light because...”.

**This is a four paragraph report  
Please use Times New Roman, 12pt font**

**\*\*\*\*This outline and all rough drafts need to be included with your final draft in order to receive full credit!!!**

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Introductory Paragraph

A. Introductory Sentence: This sentence catches the reader's attention

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a. supporting sentences: These sentences help explain why your topic is important

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a. supporting sentences: These sentences introduce the two supporting paragraphs you will be talking about later in your essay.

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B. Conclusion Sentence: This sentence wraps-up everything you've talked about:

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II. Supporting Paragraph 1: Topic of this paragraph \_\_\_\_\_

1) Introductory sentence:

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2) Example: \_\_\_\_\_

1) detail:

2) detail:

3) Example: \_\_\_\_\_

1) detail:

2) detail:

III. Supporting Paragraph 2 Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

1) Introductory sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Example: \_\_\_\_\_  
detail:

3) Example: \_\_\_\_\_  
detail:

4) Example: \_\_\_\_\_  
detail:

#### IV. Conclusion Paragraph

1) Introductory sentence: It is usually best to start with "In conclusion,"

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2) Repeat your examples in general terms

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3) Repeat why your experiment is important

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4) Briefly (1-2 sentences) explain what you plan to do for your experiment:

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