

Science Fair Information

Melodie White, Instructional Coach

Projects are due February 4th by 9:00 am at school. Participation is mandatory for 4th and 5th graders and optional for 3rd graders.



ALL Science Fair entries from 3rd, 4th and 5th grade need to follow the **scientific method**. All students will attend a presentation about project expectations. It is important to remember that an **experiment** should be repeated three times. Judges will only be asked to score projects that follow the scientific method. Demonstrations and models are not experiments and will not be scored by judges. *Nothing should involve a volcano or the Solar System.*

Science Fair Project Requirements

These guidelines should be used to complete a Science Fair project.

Purpose: My purpose tells what I want to learn from doing this project. I have written a sentence or two stating why I investigated this topic and why the results could be important. The purpose should include who would want to know the results of my experiment. "The purpose of this project is..."

Question/Problem: A question is given to show what I wanted to find out.

Prediction/Hypothesis: I have stated what I thought would happen. (I predict...)

Materials: I have provided a list of items used for my project.

Procedure: I have listed step-by-step what I did to test my prediction. Controls and variables are discussed. The independent variable is the one factor I wish to change (or use in different amounts). Everything else is controlled. In a controlled experiment everything is given the exact same conditions except for one factor. This factor is my independent variable. I need to explain things I did to make it a controlled experiment. Variables are the things that have an effect on the experiment. The independent variable is the one condition that you change in the experiment. It is the factor that you are comparing or testing. What may affect the results of my experiment? Choose one variable to change and keep the others the same. The controlled variables are the conditions that need to remain the same during my experiment so that they do not affect the results.

Results: The result is the outcome of my experiment. I told what actually happened. I told the actual numbers (or other data) that I got when I did the experiment. Data collection (ex. charts, graphs, tables, photographs) is shown. Results are what happened because of my variable. You must have measurable results, something that can be counted or measured to provide DATA. Graphs, charts, tables, photographs, or other visual aids should be used to present the results.

Conclusion: I shared what I learned and have statements on how I interpreted my results. My conclusion should start with, "Based on the results of my experiment, I learned..." I have included at least one sentence about what I would do differently next time.

Visual Presentation: My project is displayed using a three-sided board and is neat, attractive, easy-to-read, and understandable. My name and teacher's name is written on the back of the display board. I have placed information on my board using the format below.

<p>Question/Problem What I wanted to find out</p> <p>Prediction/Hypothesis What I thought would happen</p> <p>Materials A list of the items I used to do this experiment</p>	<p>Title of Project</p> <p>Purpose Why I wanted to do this experiment and how the results might be important</p> <p>Procedure This is a numbered list of the steps I used to complete this experiment.</p> <p>Variables This is an explanation of the one factor I changed and how I kept all the other factors the same.</p>	<p>Results What actually happened and where my data is shown</p> <p>Conclusion What I learned from this experiment and what I might do differently in the future</p> <p>Acknowledgement - A thank you to the people who helped me with this project</p>
---	---	---

Resources on the Internet

- **Science Fair Central**
<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/>
- **Science Fair Buddies**
<http://www.sciencebuddies.org/mentoring/>
- **Dragonfly**
<http://pbskids.org/dragonflytv/scifair/index.html>
- **Kidspace**
<http://www.ipl.org/div/projectguide/>

A limited number of white Science Fair display boards will be sold for \$2 beginning December 1, 2009. Student will get these boards starting December 4, 2009.