



## Project Guidelines

### COLLECTION

This document is meant to help guide you during your project. Your goal is to learn all about your project and be confident in your knowledge so that you can teach others what you learned!

We suggest starting your project early and working on it often! You might want to come up with a schedule, or your experiment might dictate how often you will work on your project. This part is completely up to you, but here are a few suggestions.

#### January

- Decide on a Topic, begin your Preliminary Research, and decide on your problem you are planning to solve.
- Form your team, if desired, and schedule meeting times.
- Submit your project selection form.

#### February

- Develop a Hypothesis (how to solve your problem).
- Plan the Build
- Test

#### March

- Retest
- Site resources
- Start your project board

#### April

- Finish your project board
- Practice presenting to your family, friends etc.

A collection project is a great way to introduce our youngest scientists to the Scientific Method! It encourages them to make observations, learn to sort, and draw conclusions based on the collection. Below are the elements that should be included in the report on the collection.

#### PURPOSE:

What did you collect?  
Why did you choose that item?  
What did you want to find out?  
What things will you compare?

**PRELIMINARY RESEARCH:** This part of your report has information that was found by other scientists and relates to your topic. It was information you used to develop your question and hypothesis.

**QUESTION:** State the problem in the form of a specific question. The Question is one sentence long and specific. For example: "What types of seashells are found on Cape Cod beaches?" You should try and answer the question (the hypothesis) before you begin the collection, and the collection should answer if your hypothesis was right or wrong.

**HYPOTHESIS:** This is what you think the answer to your question might be. (Example: In my neighborhood there are more oak leaves than any other leaf).

#### COLLECTION

This is the collection that answered your question.

- A. List all of the materials you used.
- B. Sort collection in different ways.
- C. Record (pictures, graphs, charts, etc.) all of the ways you sorted.
- D. Tell why you sorted them in these ways.

**CONCLUSION:** Look over your collection. Think about the information and see what it tells you about your topic. The conclusion is supposed to answer the question. Does your re- search prove or disprove your hypothesis?

**SOURCES / BIBLIOGRAPHY:** List all books, articles, pamphlets, websites and other communications or sources that you used for researching your topic. You must have at least two sources, and only one may be an encyclopedia. Also, if you received help from parents or others, be sure to credit them here and describe how they helped.

## The Display

The display is important because it will help you to communicate your project to the judges and the public during the fair.

Below is an example of a display. You will want to include charts, tables, and even examples of the subject matter or pictures if you cannot bring them along. When you make your display board, remember that this board will be your audience's first impression of your science fair project. It is a display that tells the story of all your efforts. So, it should catch your eye but be simple, neat and well-organized.

**Size and Construction:** The display board must be sturdy and stand by itself on a table. Foam core-board and cardboard are the best materials and are available at local craft stores. All scientists will receive a 4-foot section of table, so please be sure to have a display board that will fit in that space. Side panels should be 12-18 inches, and the display should not exceed 48" in height.

**Sections of the Display:** The subtitles which are mandatory on the display board are: Problem (A.K.A Investigative Question), Hypothesis (A.K.A. Prediction), Materials, Procedures, Results and Conclusion. If you used sites or books for your project, you should also include your sources.

Your display should be an overview of your experiment. Graphs and charts of the data you observed should be placed on the display board. Photos and drawings of your experiment are very useful here too! Make the display fun and easy to read, use large clear lettering, and check grammar and spelling.

\*\*\*\*Mandatory Safety Requirements\*\*\*\*\*

No part of your display may pose a safety hazard. Do not include harmful chemicals, bacterial cultures, sharp objects, or any source of heat or flames. No live or preserved animals are allowed.

