

Science Fair Introduction

1. What is a science fair project?
 - an investigation to find out something you don't know
 - a presentation of something you found out about a topic
 - a long-term activity
2. A good project answers the following questions
 - What do I want to find out?
 - What do I do to find it out?
 - What did I find out?
3. A science fair project is NOT
 - a report on an encyclopedia article
 - an art project
 - a display of equipment
 - a demonstration of a known scientific principle

JOURNAL REQUIREMENTS

For the science fair project, you are required to keep a detailed journal of all activities related to the project. The journal should be in a notebook (like a black & white composition notebook or a spiral notebook). The notebook should be big enough to allow for drawings and clear explanations and have enough pages for you to write all you need to. For each entry, start on a new page and put the date at the top. Write a detailed description of what you have done. The journal will be on display at the science fair, so make it legible and neat. It will also count as a part of your grade, so be thorough in ALL of your journal entries.

ASSIGNMENTS TO BE COMPLETED IN JOURNAL (see timeline for due dates)

1. Topic choice and *Question* – make sure your question is in the form of a question
2. *Research* and *Hypothesis* – include a list of resources you used for your research (see guidelines on how to do this); your hypothesis should be an answer to your question
3. *Materials*, *Procedure*, and all *Variables* – include a list of all the materials that will be necessary to conduct your experiment; the procedure should be written out as a step-by-step guide in numerical order (i.e. 1., 2., 3.); variables include the manipulated, responding and controlled
4. Performing the experiment – make a journal entry for every activity, observation, measurement, etc; your experiment can last for as short as a day to as long as a month, just be sure to record every single aspect of it

RESOURCES

There are many resources out there to help you complete your science fair project. To help you choose a topic, try a book or website dedicated to science fair projects. Ask a librarian for help at the library or type “science fair” into a search engine for an online list of ideas. You will also need to look at these sources for background information on your topic once you have chosen it. Don't forget that your textbook and your science teacher are also good resources to use!