

Science Fair Project Display Guidelines

Maximum Size: 30" Deep, 4' wide, 5' high.

Be proud of your board, bigger exhibits get more notice. Small says "I'm not proud of what I did, please don't notice me!"

Title: Should grab attention. Usually a question. Don't be too simple, use intelligent words. Title should draw viewers into project - spark up their curiosity.

Lettering: This is very important. Best tip - use computer generated fonts in big letters. Not too big so that your board is all title - but bigger than titles within your display. Never use hand-written titles. Center the title neatly, making sure letters line up and are not "wandering."

Pictures: One of the best ways to draw people in is with big pictures. You can easily blow up color prints on your computer or on a color zerox machine fairly cheaply. Pictures should show interesting things - you testing, testing in action, field shots, back up info, you in action, etc.

Apparatus: Have your testing apparatus or a model of it set up. People love gadgets, they're fun & interesting. If your equipment is too big, make a model. For example, make a model of a greenhouse test plot if you tested in a greenhouse.

Colors: Very important. Make sure they match and go with each other. If you don't know how, get someone who does to help you out. They should blend, but shouldn't be obnoxious. Use colored paper behind your data & written work on the board to offset the info against the board. Colors create moods. What mood do you want to create with your project?

What should you put on the board, as far as information?

This will vary with the project, but what's on the board should clearly represent the magnitude or the depth of study of your project. It should:

- Show how many tests you ran
- Show your testing method
- Show depth of testing and what type of data you took
- Explain your question or problem

Usually a board will have these elements, but there is no rigid format. Each project is different & unique:

1. Title
2. Problem is explained. How did you think of it?

3. Hypothesis. Everyone thinks you have to put this, but you don't. It's an **educated** guess. If it's only your opinion as to what will happen, don't put it down. Only put substantiated information here.
4. Procedure. Explain how you set up your test and how you tested. If it's too long, put a synopsis on the board and clearly refer the viewer to your notebook for more details.
5. Data & graphs. If you have too much data, put a summary or a sample data sheet on the board and put the rest of the data in your notebook. Clearly refer the viewer to your notebook. Use a computer program like Excel to make your graphs.
6. Results or Conclusion. Very important part!!!
What did you discover from your tests? Do they prove anything? What unanswered questions remain? What are the shortcomings of your tests. Be honest. Where would your project go from here if you were to continue? This shows science as a continual process and that you are contributing information to the world, but that experimenting could continue and yield more valuable information.

Notebook: It should contain:

1. Table of contents, your name.
2. Data sheets, neatly organized & explained.
3. Supplemental research you did which adds more information or research to your own. Do not just print out articles and include them. For each article you include, add a cover page which briefly states what information you learned from the article and how it is relevant to your topic or problem.
4. Extra pictures & graphs are good in notebook. Don't worry about having the same information on your board as well. Duplication is fine here.