

Hiser's Helpful Hints for Science Fair

Choose a topic you are interested in!!! It makes doing it fun and not another dull homework assignment. Let your curiosity take over. Ask questions of the things around you. How or why do things work? **This is the hardest part of doing a science fair project.** Half of the battle is done once a topic has been selected.

* Spend quality time finding information about the topic area: **The second hardest part of doing science fair!**

1. Find people who have knowledge of subject.
2. Books, encyclopedias
3. Magazines, DVD's or tapes
4. Internet

What kind of information are you looking for?

1. What type of background information must you know in order to do the project?
2. **Is it testable, or can you measure the results?** (time, length, area, height, weight, ect.)
3. What kind of materials and supplies are needed for the project?
4. Is it affordable?
5. How much time will it take to do?
6. Is it safe?
7. Will I need help of someone outside of school who can help if needed?
8. Can you identify the control in the experiments?
9. **Can you identify the variables in the experiment and do you have one independent variable?**

From the information above develop that following:

1. Problem (Sometimes called Question or Purpose)
2. Hypothesis
3. Procedure – Detailed enough that anyone could do your experiment. Think of it like a cook book recipe!
4. Data Collection (Results)

*Get teacher approval

***Do experiment! This is the fun part!**

***Create your display board** – Only one absolute! Abstract on lower left corner of your board!

1. Needs to appeal to the eye! Take your time and put items on straight! It does not all have to be computer generated.

2. **Make sure the above items 1-4 are on the board. Also add abstract, and conclusion.** This usually does not fill up the board, add other items such as pictures or background information.

3. Pictures of your project always help explain better than words, and make it more interesting.

4. Fill up empty space on the board, but do not put too much on either, remember eye appeal.

*** Have a notebook (3 ring binder) and logbook(Composition book) that has all of your information about your project.** Include reference materials, extra pictures, rough drafts and notes from experiment.

*** Practice speaking about your project.** Practice in front of a mirror. Can you answer questions about your project, especially what are your variables?

What is an abstract?

It is a brief description of your science project done in less than 250 words. An easy way to do this would be:

- One sentence and describe your problem or question
- One sentence for your hypothesis
- Two to four sentences to describe your procedure and materials.
- One to three sentences to describe your data and conclusion.