

Science Fair Display Checklist: Display due FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

Your display should attract attention to significant details and inform the observer of important ideas. Make it easy for interested spectators and judges to assess your study and the results you have obtained. You want to “catch the eye” of the judges and convince them that your research is high quality and deserves a closer look. Most displays or boards have three sections and are free-standing (usually on a table). Sometimes judges get a chance to look at the board before the interviews, so they’ll already have an idea of who they want to interview and what questions they want to ask. Make the most of your display space by using clear and concise visuals. Does your display have what it takes to “wow” the judges? Below is a checklist of what judges are looking for when they stop by to check out your display. Before you attach anything to your backboard, make sure you have checked everything off this list! For more help, try visiting: http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_display_board.shtml.

✓ Does your display meet the requirements?

NOTE: Teachers strongly recommend getting a standard cardboard display board (available at local retailers)!

- Is your backboard the correct size? Maximum **height** of 72 inches (183 cm), Maximum **width** of 48 inches (122 cm), Maximum **depth** of 30 inches (76 cm)
- Can your backboard stand up on its own?
- Everything attached to the display is either paper/pictures or tape/glue (**nothing else may be attached to the board, including STAPLES, DISPLAY ITEMS, SAMPLES, etc...**). Boards with “extras” attached will be disqualified at the district level.

✓ Does your display include ALL of the following?

- Project Title:** simply and accurately presents your research and depicts the nature of your project; draws the attention of the casual observer (makes them want to know more)
- Research Question:** includes both the IV & DV; “How does __ affect __?”
- Hypothesis:** a testable claim (*NOT a prediction or “educated guess”!*)
- Prediction:** a statement of the expected outcome assuming the hypothesis is true
- Materials:** Bulleted list of materials used (specific numbers and types)
- Procedures:** Numbered list of procedures followed (detailed so anyone could reproduce)
- Results:** This is your analyzed data (*evidence*); Pictures/Graphs/Charts that highlight relationships or patterns in the data (**Note: You must cite the photographer, date taken, and subject for all photos used**)
- Discussion:** Explain your results (patterns/relationships), including relevant research/scientific concepts that affected your investigation. Mention possible sources of error or interesting/unexpected results.
- Conclusion:** This is your claim; it should relate directly to your research question.
- Abstract:** This is a 250-word or less summary of your purpose, procedures, results, and conclusion.

✓ Is the arrangement of your display effective?

- Section titles stand out
- Board follows a logical flow (reflects the investigative process)
- Typed, easy-to-read font (can be read from about 3 feet away)
- Correct spelling/grammar

✓ Is your display visually appealing?

- Colorful but not so flashy that it is distracting
- Pieces are neatly cut and glued/taped; rubber cement recommended (**NO tacks or staples! Elmer’s glue is NOT recommended!**)

Plan Your Display

Use this template to sketch out how you plan to arrange your display. You will want your project title at the top-center of your display board. Be sure to include the following headings: Research Question, Hypothesis & Prediction, Materials & Procedures, Results, Discussion, & Conclusion.

PROJECT TITLE