

Science Fair Research Paper Checklist:
Research Paper due FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

Your research paper will be a summary of your project. It will provide the reader with information regarding your plan, your methods, and your findings. The research paper will be **SIX TYPED PAGES** organized into the following sections and stapled or bound together.

Use this checklist to make sure you have completed all of the requirements of the project by checking-off boxes as you have completed each section of your paper.

PAGE 1) TITLE PAGE

- Name, Title of Project, Teacher Name & Class Period, and Date
- 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)

PAGE 2) ABSTRACT

- A summary of your project
- 250 Word MAXIMUM
- Includes the purpose of your investigation
- A summary of the procedures and data/results, and a statement of your claim.

PAGE 3) BACKGROUND PAGE

- RESEARCH QUESTION** – Includes both the IV & DV, “How does __ affect __?”
- BACKGROUND RESEARCH** – Paragraph about what you learned from your research on the scientific topics involved in your project
- HYPOTHESIS** – a testable claim (*NOT a prediction or “educated guess”!*)
- PREDICTION** – a statement of the expected outcome assuming the hypothesis is true

PAGE 4) METHODS PAGE

- MATERIALS** – a bulleted list of materials used; specific numbers and type
- PROCEDURES** – a numbered list of procedures followed (detailed so anyone could reproduce)

PAGE 5) RESULTS PAGE

- EVIDENCE** – 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*)
 - All data should be clearly labeled and include appropriate units

PAGE 6) DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION PAGE

- RESULTS DISCUSSION** – explain your results, including patterns or relationships in the data; discuss possible sources of error or interesting/unexpected results
- SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS** – explain the relevant scientific concepts that affect/validate your data
- CONCLUSION STATEMENT** – this is your claim; it should directly answer your research question and reflect the results of your investigation based on the evidence you collected.

✓ FORMATTING

- FONT** - size 11 or 12 font (Arial, Calibri, or Times New Roman...nothing “curly” or “cute”)
- MARGINS** - 0.5 - 1 inch margins, single or double spaced
- LAYOUT** - Page order detailed above is followed (information is on the correct page, in the correct order)
- SPELLING/GRAMMAR** – use spell check and grammar check