



Science Fair Sanity® Seminar

What makes a good science fair project? *Ask students for answers and write on board.*

What the judges ask themselves

- **Knowledge Gained**-Did student acquire scientific knowledge & skills? Does student recognize scope/limitations? Does project add scientific knowledge?
- **Scientific Approach**-Were scientific principals used to solve problem?
- **Research**-Data from YOUR experiment? Unique method? Can you do further experimentation?
- **Individual Work**-Did student think for themselves? Was the work sequential & systematic? Acknowledgements given?
- **Thoroughness**-Repeat trials? Test and control variables? Complete analysis?
- **Information**-Facts stated correctly? Results used accurately? Were samples random?
- **Validity**-Conclusion consistent with data?
- **Written Presentation**-Follow form?



Visual and Oral Presentation

VISUAL

- ✚ Is the exhibit attractive and does it adequately present the theme of the project?
- ✚ Has the data been presented in the most explicit way for the particular type of information involved?
- ✚ Clear and concise—can judge look at display and immediately get a sense of what the project is about. Are all relevant details explained.

Title=brief, captivating, and visible. 45 characters max **Good Titles:** What causes plants to grow. Can the sun be harmful to humans? **Bad Titles:** Will a hurricane hit the coast of Florida in 2025. Which good luck charm is the luckiest?

Purpose, Hypothesis, & Materials left side of board.

- ❖ **Purpose**-What do I want to find out?
- ❖ **Hypothesis**-what I think will happen. **Examples:** Water will evaporate sooner in the sun than in shady areas. Fungus can be grown on household items, unassisted, under certain circumstances.
- ❖ **Materials**-Equipment you used (pictures are worth 1000 words).



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Abstract, Materials, & Procedure on center panel.

- ❖ **Abstract**-200 words or less with 3 paragraphs (purpose, procedure, and conclusion).
- ❖ **Procedure**-**THIS IS YOUR SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT**...what you did. Step by step explanation, number of test groups, trials, and controls.

Results, Conclusion, and Copy of Typed Safety sheet on right panel.

- ❖ **Results**-show data using tables, charts, or graphs. Make It MEASURABLE!
- ❖ **Conclusion**-Interpretation of the data. REFER back to purpose and hypothesis. Answer original question & stick within limitations of experiment.
- ❖ **Safety Sheet**

Exhibit Design and Evaluation

- May not exceed 76cm deep, 122cm wide and 122cm high.
- Construct own exhibit
- Neat, uncluttered, and spelled correctly
- Reading 5000 projects gets boring. Make your project memorable. Use graphs, charts, posters, demonstrations, etc. **Be sure to work within rules!**
- **SELL YOUR PROJECT.** Earn the scholarship; don't expect someone to give it to you!!



ORAL

- ✚ Is the presentation lucid, articulate, and interesting?
Use a smooth and easy delivery. Clearly explain what the heck you're talking about. Relax, you know a lot more about your project than most judges do.
Are you excited about your project? It will show.
- ✚ Does the presentation include enough technical information to be convincing?
Did you do your homework.

Rules and Regulations

- ❖ Saying: Clothes make the man—not true, but if you are dressed slovenly, you will distract the judges from focusing on your project.
- ❖ Nothing on the floor. No easels, tripods, etc.
- ❖ Must be Freestanding. Self-contained. No lighting.
- ❖ Provide all your own materials (tape, staples, scissors, etc.)
- ❖ Display at your own risk. Normal wear and tear can be expected. Don't bring materials of excessive price and value. Accidents happen.
- ❖ FOLLOW ALL SAFETY RULES!!!