Homeschool Day Science Fair

How to Layout a Science Fair Project

1. **Project Title** – Quick catchy title that clearly states what your project is about.
2. **Abstract** – Short overview of the entire project, what was tested, how it was tested, and if the hypothesis was rejected or supported by the results of the project.
3. **Question** – One sentence about what you saw in the world and had a question about, essentially what you are hoping to test in this project. (i.e., Why do the plants on my back porch keep dying?)
4. **Hypothesis** – An "If...then..." statement about what is happening when you test your variable. (i.e., *If* plants are not watered, *then* they will wither and die.)
5. **Background Research** – A summary of the research you did into the topic that you will be testing during your project. (*i.e.,* information about plants, their requirements for living, and the different water level requirements for various plants.)
6. **Materials** – List all materials used in this project.
7. **Procedure** – List out exactly how you completed the project so that others may replicate it in the future.
8. **Results** – Data section filled with photos, graphs, and/or tables laying out what data you gathered. No need to explain the data in this section, that's in the next one.
9. **Discussion** – Here you explain what the data is showing. Are the trends moving down are they moving up? How has the variable affected your project? (*i.e.,* looking at the weights of plants over the week, ones that were watered less, weighed less.)
10. **Conclusion** – Here you state whether your hypothesis was supported (correct) or rejected (incorrect). (*i.e.,* The hypothesis was supported, any plants that are not watered over long periods of time do wither and die.)
11. **Future Directions** – This section allows you to propose future projects that could look at expanding the scope of the experiment. (*i.e.,* Future projects could look at the opposite side of this argument, if plants are watered too much, will they die?)
12. **References** – List all sources used in your background research. APA format preferred.

FAQs

Q: I can't think of a project, where is a good place to start?
A: Look around you! Science is happening all the time; it doesn't just have to be biology. You can do a project on physics, oceanography, conservation, chemistry, anything! Ask a question about the world around you and get testing.

Q: Who are the judges?
A: Judging will be conducted by members of Mississippi Aquarium and Audubon Aquarium education staff members. They will judge High School, Middle School, and Elementary School categories separately.

Q: How should my science fair project be displayed?
A: A traditional tri-board display.

Q: If I win in my age group, will I move on to regionals or state?
A: This is a standalone science fair and is not a qualifier for any other science fairs.

Never done a science fair project before? Take a look at this resource to help you out!
https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/activities/science-fair-project/