

Academic Rodeo Science Fair



Science Fair Journal Templates

Contains templates for both Experimental and
Model/Demonstration projects

Revised September 2021

Experimental Project Template

Your journal can be in a spiral notebook, folder with brads, or three-ring notebook. Use one which is large enough for your information.

A handwritten journal is best, but parts of it may be typed as well. Items that are handwritten should be neat and legible. The most important aspect of your journal is that it shows what you did daily in preparing your project. Good notes are very important in scientific research.

Create a label (preferably 2" x 4") for the outside of your journal to make it easy to identify to be placed with your project for the Science Fair judging. Place this label on the back of your notebook. Academic Rodeo will place a label with a number on the front of your notebook which will be used by the judges.

Label:

Science Fair Level: Experimental Division Experimental Category Student Name School Name
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Level: E (3rd – 5th grade), MS (6th – 8th grade) or HS (9th – 12th grade)

Division: Experimental

Categories: Behavioral, Biological, Chemistry, Environmental, or Physical

Title Page:

Title of Project
Science Fair Level Experimental Division Experimental Category
Date

See above for Level and Category types;

Purpose:

Why did you choose to research this topic?

What do you already know about this topic? You may include facts and things you have learned through research.

Question:

What question do you hope to answer through your research?

You may have multiple questions, but too many could prevent a clear result for your hypothesis.

Hypothesis:

What do you think the results will be?

You may include research information to support your hypothesis

Why you think your prediction is true?

Methods:

How will you test your hypothesis?

- *Do you have a survey? If so, include a copy.*
- *Is there a detailed procedure for how you will test your hypothesis? If so, explain it and show the steps.*
- *Do you have a timeline for testing the hypothesis? If so, represent it in some way – a detailed listing, a calendar, etc.*

What materials will you need to test the hypothesis?

- *List all of these and describe their use*

Research Log:

This is the daily journal for what you did throughout your project. It is written as you work, NOT at the end.

You may not need to write something every day, but you should include information for every day that you are actively working on your project.

Results:

What are the results from your experiments or your surveys?

Include any of the following which apply to your project:

- *Blank Survey*
- *Completed surveys and/or a table or chart to show a summary of the survey answers.*
- *Charts or graphs that show growth, progress, etc.*
- *Pictures that show before and after; changes, growth, etc.*

REMEMBER: *Your results may show that your hypothesis was wrong. This does not mean that your research project failed. Thomas Edison was quoted as saying*

“I have not failed 10,000 times—I've successfully found 10,000 ways that will not work.”

Hendry, Erica R., (2013 November 20) 7 Epic Fails Brought to You by the Genius Mind of Thomas Edison retrieved from <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/7-epic-fails-brought-to-you-by-the-genius-mind-of-thomas-edison-180947786/?no-ist>

Conclusion:

Write a short summary of what you found out or learned, was your hypothesis true, etc.

Credits and Documentation:

- *Give credit to books and online resources you used in researching about your project*
- *If the method you used for demonstrating or modeling the process was created by someone else, be sure to give credit for that as well.*
- *If you used a graph, survey questionnaire or other tool that was created by someone else, give credit to that person.*
- *Document all of your resources – Ask your teacher for the proper way to do this.*

Photos:

- *Certainly, use photos to document your work and your results*
- *You will probably want to use photos on your display board*

Model/Demonstration Project Template

Your journal can be in a spiral notebook, folder with brads, or three-ring notebook. Use one which is large enough for your information.

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Create a label (preferably 2" x 4") for the outside of your journal to make it easy to identify to be placed with your project for the Science Fair judging. Place this label on the back of your notebook. Academic Rodeo will place a label with a number on the front of your notebook which will be used by the judges.

Label:

Science Fair Level: Model/Demonstration Division
Student Name School Name

Level: E (3rd – 5th grade), MS (6th – 8th grade) or HS (9th – 12th grade)

Division: Model/Demonstration

Title Page:

Title of Project
Science Fair Level Type of Project
Date

Type of Project: Model or Demonstration

(A 3-D representation of DNA is a Model; an erupting volcano is a Demonstration.)

Purpose:

What are you trying to demonstrate or model?

Scientific Principle or Process Involved:

- Briefly describe what you are trying to show:
Examples: a model of a volcano; how the tide rises and falls; the solar system; how an earthquake occurs*
- Explain how the materials and/or demonstration will simulate this scientific principle*

Research:

Include a short research paper to show what you have learned about the scientific principle or process. This does not have to be long, but it should give a good description and explanation for the principle or process.

Include any of the following that apply:

- *Description of the principle (gravity, photosynthesis, eruption of a volcano, structure of a tree, etc.)*
- *What factors are involved in the principle or how does the principle affect other things*

Examples:

What is the result of gravity or the lack of gravity?

Where does photosynthesis occur and under what conditions?

Why does a volcano erupt and what comes out of the volcano?

What are the different parts of a tree and how do each affect the growth and health of the tree?

- *Who discovered this principle and how was it discovered?*

Methods:

How will you demonstrate or model this principle?

- *Overview of the demonstration of model*
- *Materials used and how each of these represent what is being demonstrated*

Journal Log:

This is the daily journal for what you did throughout your project. It is written as you work, NOT at the end.

You may not need to write something every day, but should include information for every day that you are actively working on your project.

Conclusions:

- *What did you learn from doing this project?*
- *Has it changed your mind about the principle or process or caused you to think about this process in nature in a different way?*
- *Do you have thoughts of how this could be demonstrated in a better way?*

Credits and Documentation:

- *Give credit to books and online resources you used in researching about your project*
- *If the method you used for demonstrating or modeling the process was created by someone else, be sure to give credit for that as well.*
- *Document all of your resources – Ask your teacher for the proper way to do this.*

Photos:

- *Certainly, use photos to document your work and your results*
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