

Introduction

YES!!! It's that Science Fair time of year! Just imagine the inquiry and organizational skills you'll learn and practice. Below is an extensive list of guidelines, explanations, and rules. Make sure you are clear about them. Share them with the people helping you at home. Ultimately, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE!!

1. **You will do a science project based on the scientific method. You may work individually or with a partner who is on your academic team and has the same science teacher as you.**
2. Your project must be based on an experiment. You will follow the scientific method and collect MEASURED DATA. The project must include a data table with measurements and their units that can be graphed. If you want to build something, that's great, but you must test something about it that can be measured. (No written reports; no rock collections, terrariums, volcanoes...)
3. Follow the sheets included in this packet that will not only guide you through each step of the scientific method, but will also help you pull things together at the end like the bibliography, poster, and oral report (yes, you have to stand in front of people and talk). Get a cheap three-ring binder or folder to hold the packet in.
4. The sheets in this packet are **rough drafts** and are due along the way. Your teacher will set due dates and grading. There is a deadline checklist paper included in the beginning of this packet to keep track of what you have done.
5. Your project must have a control group and at least two experimental groups. Within each of these groups, there must be at least 15 trials. This means that at the very least you will repeat your procedure **45 times**. When you choose your project, keep in mind the cost of supplies and time available.
6. **We strongly suggest you avoid using vertebrate animals, including humans. Pathogens are also not recommended.** The reason for these recommendations is that it may be difficult for you to qualify your project for Area Wide or State Science Fair. If you have questions contact your teacher.
7. If you are going to use plants, plant 20 seeds per group in case some die. Plant seeds in timely manner so that you have ample time to observe the growing process. Don't buy pallets of already grown plants to eliminate any unknown variables.
8. Your science teacher will grade all science projects and will select the projects that will advance to the Muchison Science Fair.
9. If you choose to change your project idea it must be in writing to the teacher no later than one week after the research source due date.
10. **Some class time for science fair will be provided, but the majority of the work on this project will be conducted outside the classroom.** Because of the state and district requirements and guidelines concerning curriculum there will not be much class time for this project. Scheduled after school tutorials for students who wish to receive extra help on their projects will be posted by the teacher.
11. **Please understand the teacher has strict deadlines to meet. The school late work policy applies.**
12. **All science projects will be due December 5, 2011. This includes the display board and all written portions of the report.**
13. **Oral reports will begin December 12 and continue through the next week. Be prepared. If you are not your teacher will consider your project incomplete.**

PROJECT DUE DATE: DECEMBER 5, 2011