NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Course Name PERIOD: 1 2 3 4 A B

Science Fair

Paper & poster layout

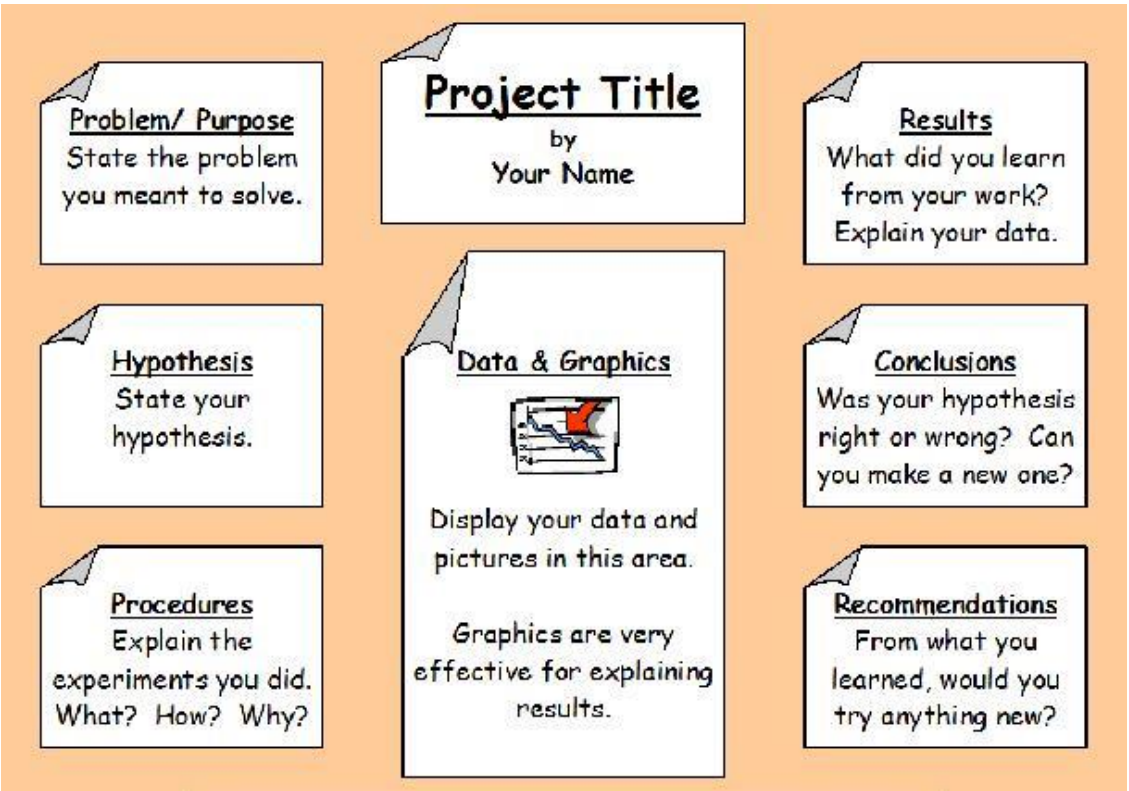
The display board

The display poster board is an important tool for the presentation of your research.

The objective of a display board is to present the main areas and conclusions of your project so that others can easily understand what you accomplished. This is not the same as your written paper. Think of the display board as a commercial for your project. The commercial will state the main points and key features of your research so that others will understand what you did and how you did it.

Like books, people will read your board from left to right and top to bottom. It is a good idea to arrange your project information so that observers can read your display in logical order. Part of your challenge is to make it easy for others to understand your work. The only section not following this convention is the title which should be located at the top center of your display.

The main areas of a poster board could be the ones shown in the chart on this page. The areas are explained below. Each section presented on the display board should be only one paragraph if possible. The actual areas you use will depend on the rules of your fair and the choice of exact information you want to present.
Check with your teacher or fair coordinator before using this format.



Title

The title of your project. Your name.

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Data and Graphics

Present any significant data, graphs, and pictures in this section. Visual representations of your results, if done effectively, are worth thousands of words.

Problem/ Purpose

State the problem that you were originally concerned with and explain why you selected the topic you did?

Hypothesis

State your hypothesis.

Procedures

State the procedures you followed. What experiments did you perform and why?

Results

What did you find out from your data? Explain the results here.

Conclusions

Was your hypothesis right or wrong? Can you make a new statement that you know to be true based on your research?

Recommendations

From everything you learned would you make any recommendations for further research? Write your ideas for research in this section

Additional Ideas

Include photos of yourself and your project to give it that personal connection.

The paper

The written report will have a lot more detail that will be shown in your poster. If the display board is like a commercial for your project, the paper will be more detailed. Think of this as a more developed ThinkSheet 3 from your Science Fair Resources.

The paper will be broken into segments that resemble the parts of the poster with some minor differences:

Title Page

The title of your project should be centered on the page and also include:
--your name
--your teacher's name
--the due date

Introduction

Here you should discuss your problem/question--why or how you came to study this topic and why it is important to study. Summarize information from your background research that is necessary to understand your problem. Make sure you cite! Explain how you decided upon your experimental design including the independent and dependent variables. Conclude by stating the purpose of your study and your hypothesis about the results.

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Methods and Materials

In paragraph form, describe the materials and procedures used to conduct the study.

Provide enough detail to allow the reader to repeat the experiment. Include amounts in the materials, precise descriptions.

Results

This is your data that you collected--whether observational/surveyed (qualitative) or numerical (quantitative).

This data must be presented in two ways:

1. tables
2. charts and/or graphs

Note: If you have a lot of raw data and you are just graphing averages then you can just table the averages also. Raw data should be included in the "Appendix" section at the end of the paper.

Any statistical analysis of your data should also be shown in this section. You should include sample calculations, if appropriate.

Discussion/Conclusion

- This section focuses on your descriptions and interpretations of your results. Emphasize your major findings.
- Restate the purpose of your study, your major findings, and whether your hypothesis was supported by your data.
- Compare your findings with any research that was previously done. Make sure you cite!
- Discuss any possible sources of error in your results, either from chance occurrences or from your experimental design.
- Finally, make suggestions for improved experimentation methods and recommendations for further study.

Bibliography

Books, journal articles, websites, or people cited or used for information in the paper in APA format.

Acknowledgements

Credit assistance received by mentors, parents, teachers and other sources.