

DeSoto ISD
Science Fair Handbook
2014-2015
BY
Science Department



Purpose The primary focus of the science fair is to encourage and inspire creativity and critical thinking in various areas of science while providing an outlet for student expression.

Who May Enter The science fair is MANDATORY for ALL students. Students will receive several daily grades and one major grade for their work.

Deadlines Project Due Date: **January 13, 2016** Late Date: **January 15, 2016** for maximum grade of 70

Awards Given There will be four categories per grade level. They are life science, physical science and earth science. For each category there will be an award for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and 1 honorable mention. Each of the first place winners in each grade level will compete for Grade Level 1st place. The 1st place grade level winner will move on to compete at the district level. All entrants will receive a ribbon of participation.

Judging The judging will consist of 3 teachers, 2 support staff, and at least 1 administrator. The panel of judges may elect to interview any or all entrants. All judging is final. There are no protests.

Helpful Websites

1. <http://www.sciencebuddies.org/>
2. <http://www.super-science-fair-projects.com/science-fair.html>
3. <http://www.all-science-fair-projects.com/>

Rules The following rules must be met by all entrants. Failure to adhere to any or all rules and guidelines will result in disqualification.

- 1) Students may only enter one project.
- 2) All the work must be the student's own.
- 3) All students must submit a completed registration form by the deadline for approval.
- 4) Although students may solicit information from knowledgeable persons, all work must be done by the student.
- 5) All entries must meet the presentation requirements in the next section.
- 6) The student must furnish all equipment necessary for their project.
- 7) Any project involving living animals must meet humane standards of practice. If you are unsure, contact your child's science teacher.
- 8) All students are expected to be in accordance with the laboratory safety rules.
- 9) Metric measurements are required.

Presentation Requirements All entries must be presented in the following manner:

1. All entries should be displayed on science fair back board. These can be found at Hobby Lobby, Wal-Mart etc.
2. Displays cannot be wider than 48".

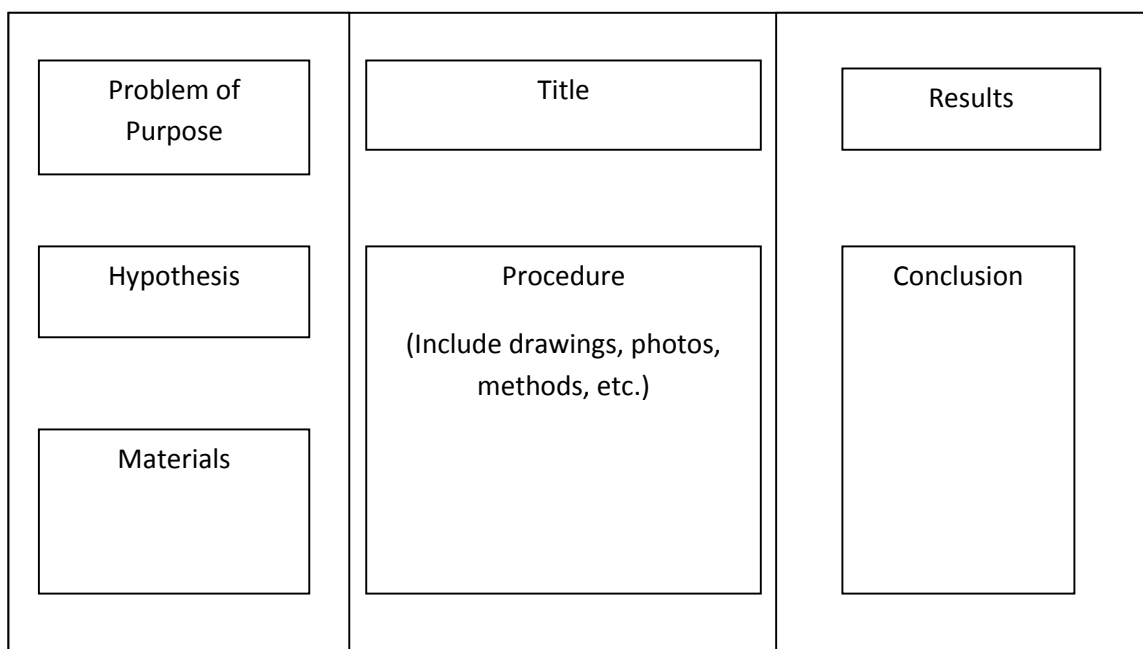
3. The student's name cannot be present on the front of the display board.

4. An envelope containing the student's name and science teacher must be affixed to the back of the display.

5. There cannot be any photos that show the face or likeness of any student(s).

6. In addition to the board display, the student(s) must keep and present a journal. Guidelines for the journal can be found in this handbook.

7. The following diagram represents the required back board layout for Science.



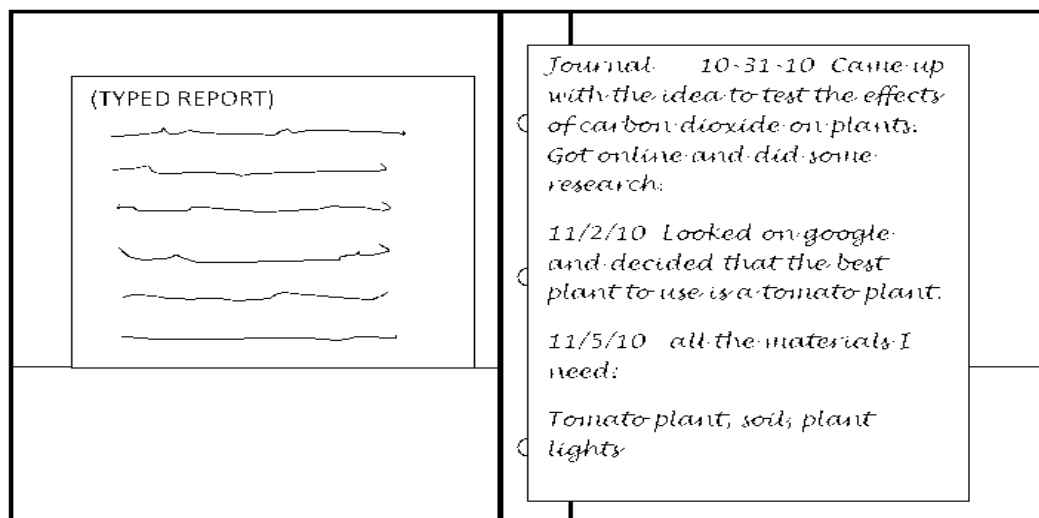
Journal

You must record and document all data that you've collected during your experiment in a science journal. Your science journal should include the following:

1. Title of your project
2. List of materials that were used
3. List of all resources that you used (internet, interviews, books, etc.)
4. Dated and detailed entries of all your work. This includes what you did that worked, what didn't work, errors, changes in your original idea, etc.
5. Drawings

Requirements:

1. Must be a 2 pocket folder with brads.
2. Notes must be handwritten and dated.
3. Notes must be a detailed account of your project from start to finish.
4. Science journal pages must be in brads.
5. The first pocket will hold a formal typed report (see Typed report requirements).
6. The back pocket will hold all necessary/required forms.



Formal Typed Paper

The regulations for the formal typed report are as follows:

1. DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME NAME OR DATE
2. Font size must be 12 ONLY
3. Start 1 inch from the top
4. Section titles must be bold and all caps
5. Single spaced
6. Double space between sections

1 in from top	<p>Title</p> <p>Background: This section will include information on how, why and what you selected as your science fair project.</p> <p>Hypothesis:</p> <p>Variables: (List independent, dependent variables and controls)</p> <p>Procedure: (Step by step, detailed account of your experiment.)</p> <p>Materials: (List all materials used)</p> <p>Data: This section will include all the data you collected as well as any data tables, charts, graphs, etc.)</p> <p>Conclusion: This section will be a summary and explanation on the results and sources of error.</p> <p>Future Applications: This section will contain what you see that can be done to improve the experiment and any practical applications now or in the future.</p>
Section Titles Bold and All Caps	

Project Items & Completion Dates

Name _____ Teacher _____ Period _____

PROJECT ITEM	DUE DATE	TEACHER SIGNATURE
Project Approval form	November 6	
Background Information & Hypothesis	November 13	
Procedure & Data Tables Template	November 19	
Data Table & Conclusion	January 7	
*Complete Project Due	January 13	

*See Grading Policy on Late Work.

Please keep this sheet in your folder. You will need to turn it in with your project items to get your teacher's signature.

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Please sign and return the bottom section to your Science teacher. Please keep the top portion for your records.

.....
I _____, acknowledge these assignments and due dates. I will work to adhere to the timeline set with the understanding each part of the project is a grade that will be counted as a homework/classwork assignment. Complete Project is worth **ONE TEST GRADE**. Not having these assignments on or before the due date could result in my overall average falling below 70%. Note that the Science Fair has an effect on the 3rd and 4th Six Weeks.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

PROJECT APPROVAL FORM

This form must be completed and signed by your science teacher prior to your project. Please keep this form and place in your science journal in the back pocket.

Student Name _____ Grade 6th 7th 8th

Science Teacher _____ Period 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th

Category: *Earth Science* *Physical Science* *Life Science*

Proposed Project:

Approved by: _____ Date _____

Project Due Date: January 13, 2015

Late Date: January 15, 2015