

Science Fair Display Checklist

After you have completed your backboard take time to complete this checklist yourself to be sure you have everything included on your display board. Then add or revise any areas that you did not check off as being complete. After you have made any changes to your board, have your parent complete the checklist as a final review of your work before turning it in at school.

	Assessment	
	Self	Parent
1. Overall appearance is neat and attractive.	_____	_____
2. All necessary parts are included and labeled (Question, Prediction, Materials, Procedure, Results, and Conclusion.)	_____	_____
3. I used no more than three colors when doing my backboard.	_____	_____
4. My backboard has a short and catchy title.	_____	_____
5. All of the words on my backboard are spelled correctly.	_____	_____
6. I have used proper grammar and punctuation.	_____	_____
7. My procedures are written in clear sequential order.	_____	_____
8. My procedure shows that I conducted repeated trials (at least 3) and used an adequate sample size, if necessary.	_____	_____
9. I have identified my independent, dependent and control variables.	_____	_____
10. All necessary parts are included on my chart (title, labels, and units) and it is neatly drawn and filled in with appropriate data.	_____	_____
11. I have the correct type of graph that displays my data from my chart and the graph includes all the necessary parts (title, axes, increments, labels, and scale). A key is present if necessary.	_____	_____
12. I included a written explanation of my chart, graph and any other observations I made.	_____	_____
13. My conclusion includes the answer to the original question, accuracy of my prediction, what I learned supported with data , any problems and real world applications.	_____	_____
14. My research paper follows the guidelines listed in the journal.	_____	_____

TIPS FOR CREATING OUTSTANDING DISPLAYS

- ❑ **BE NEAT-** Avoid frayed or ripped edges of paper, glue globs, lots of cross outs or white outs etc.
- ❑ **USE COLORS TO ATTRACT ATTENTION BUT DON'T OVER DO IT--** No more than (3) three colors should be used on a project except for special situations. Too much color can be distracting. Instead develop a color pattern that is pleasing to the eye.
- ❑ **FRAME OR MATTE YOUR WORK-**Use construction paper or other colored materials to provide a background for your written work and labels (construction paper, newspaper, wrapping paper, old wall paper, contact paper etc...)
- ❑ **TITLES SHOULD BE SHORT, CATCHY AND RELATED TO THE PROJECT IDEA**
For example:
Color of Cool Cubes is better than The Melting Rate of the Different Colors of Ice Cubes
Sizing Up Seeds is better than The Relationship between the Size of the Seed and the Size of the Plant
- ❑ **WRITING SHOULD BE NEAT AND LEGIBLE-** If you choose to use a computer or typewriter, stick to one or two fonts to type your work. Too many fonts can be distracting and difficult to read. If you hand write your work, either print or use cursive, don't mix the two. Also, if you are handwriting the information, be extra careful to write so it can easily be read by others. Pen is easier to read than pencil. Messy or illegible writing can really lower your score.
- ❑ **SPELLING DOES COUNT-**Take time to check over your work before you put it on your display board. Don't overuse white out. Scratching out mistakes is not acceptable. If you do recognize an error after finishing, place a single line through it and write the correct word above. However, too many of these types of marks will effect the overall appeal of your project.
- ❑ **PRACTICE YOUR LAYOUT-** Before you begin gluing things down, practice moving the parts of the display around until they are evenly spaced and centered. Crowding together or large gaps can take away from your project's appeal. Trying to rip off or move things once they are glued down can be messy and often ruins the paper or display board.
- ❑ **DON'T GLUE ON MATERIALS FROM YOUR PROJECT-** Don't glue on food items such as M & M's, popcorn or moldy bread to the board. Food products attract bugs, so do their wrappers. Don't place samples of chemicals or their containers on the board. This includes household items such as vinegar, dish soap, oil etc.
- ❑ **TAKE PHOTOS OR DRAW PICTURES/DIAGRAMS OF THE ITEMS FOR DISPLAY-** This will help you to avoid attaching materials from your experiment to your display. Inappropriate materials will be removed from the board before allowing it to be displayed in the fair.
- ❑ **RESEARCH REPORTS ARE PLACED IN FRONT OF THE DISPLAY-** Don't attach the report to the display board. It is placed in front of the display.

SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT DISPLAY INFORMATION

- Title:** short, catchy, related to the topic and results of the experiment
- Question** the question to be tested
- Prediction:** the predicted answer to the question/problem asked with a reason
- Materials:** a list of the supplies, equipment to be used
- Procedure:** a list of the steps followed to perform the experiment
- Results:** data displayed in table and graph form to include data analysis (mean, medium, mode, range) and accompanied by a written explanation
- Conclusion:** briefly answers the question asked in the beginning; states the prediction to be supported or not supported, and makes suggestions for further research

