SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT CHECKLIST

A: Doing the Experiment

Science Fair Notebook: Before you start your experiment, you need to have a Science Fair Notebook. Your notes need to be kept from the time you start the ideas for your experiment through experimentation. It has to be bound and is made of readable, handwritten notes. It is like a journal and log of your entire experiment. Now you can get your science fair experiment going…..

Due Date:

_____ 1. Determine the **PROBLEM.** What are you going to investigate, what question do you want to solve? Write this in your science fair notebook.

_____ 2. **RESEARCH:** Find out more about your topic. Record your **RESEARCH** (call product representatives, interview experts, or conduct Web or book research) in your notebook. Bibliography needed.

_____ 3. Write out your **HYPOTHESIS.** What do you think will be the conclusion, what do you predict or guess will happen as you investigate your problem? Write this in your science fair notebook. Remember the results of your experiment may be different from your **HYPOTHESIS.** That IS science! Do not change your **HYPOTHESIS** to fit the outcome!

_____ 4. Assemble the **MATERIALS** needed to carry out investigation or experiment. Write down the **MATERIALS** you are using.

_____ 5. Determine the steps you will take to complete your investigation/experiment. This is your **PROCEDURE.** Make sure your **PROCEDURE** is clearly written in your notebook in detail and can be easily repeated.

_____ 6. Complete your investigation/experiment according to your **PROCEDURE** and record **RESULTS.**

_____ 7. Repeat the experiment to have 3-5 trials. If you are doing a survey type of experiment, you need to have 50-100 subjects or trials to have enough data. Record **RESULTS** in a list, chart, T chart, or table. Make sure to clearly label.

_____ 8. Take the **RESULTS** of your investigation/experiment from your chart or table and create a graph, drawings or pictures to illustrate your results. Label. Write a summary of your results. Exactly what happened?

_____ 9. **CONCLUSION:** Looking at the **RESULTS** of your investigation what did you learn? Write out what you learned from the investigation/experiment. Make certain you answer the question you wrote for your **PROBLEM.** Also write down if you proved your **HYPOTHESIS**; state if you guessed correctly or if you were not correct and you disproved your **HYPOTHESIS**. If you would complete your investigation in a different way, write that information. If you want to learn more about your topic, you could also write in your **CONCLUSION**.

B. Assembly of Science Fair Board

After conducting your experiment, recording everything about your experiment in your **Science Fair Notebook,** you then will create a **Science Fair Board** to show the public what you did in your experimentation and what you learned. Your board can be created with handwritten labels and writing or can be computer generated, or a combination of both.

_____ 10. Find cardboard for science fair display board. This could be a large box that you cut to size or a display board you purchase. You can also build a wooden board.

_____ 11. You may want to cover display board with paper, cloth, paint or a combination of these. You do not have to cover your board.

_____ 12. Make labels for each step in your science project process. On plain white or light colored paper print clearly the following labels: **PROBLEM, HYPOTHESIS, PROCEDURE, RESULTS, CONCLUSION** as well as **RESEARCH** and **MATERIALS.** Edit spelling!

_____ 13. Make each section for your science fair board using data from your notebook. Charts and Graphs (pictures/drawings) must be included in your **RESULTS** section. Layout science fair board parts before gluing. Once it is organized, glue each section to board.

_____ 14. Look at your completed SCIENCE FAIR DISPLAY BOARD and check that all your information can easily be understood by others who will view it. Neatness is important. Make sure your name, grade, teacher, and school is written on the back of your board. Your name and your picture SHOULD NOT BE ON THE FRONT OF YOUR BOARD!

_____ 15. Congratulations! You've completed your project. Take it to the Science Fair and be proud of your accomplishment.

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