

Steps to a Successful Science Fair Project

1. Selecting A Topic

The first step in preparing a good science fair project is to select a topic for your project. Choosing a good project is very important. First of all, you should pick a study or experiment that interests you. Secondly, it doesn't have to be complicated. Students often select complicated projects and then end up not fully understanding the concepts or even giving up on the project.

2. Research your Topic

After selecting your topic, learn everything about it. Books on your topic can most likely be found in your local library or bookstore. Another good source for information is on the Internet. You can use the many search engines available to find information.

3. Make A Plan

Once you consider yourself an 'expert' about your topic, make a plan as to how you will conduct your experiment. Your plan should include the following:

- The purpose of your experiment
- The variable(s) or the things that you are going to change during the experiment.
- Your Hypothesis or what you think the outcome of the project will be.
- A detailed procedure outlining how you will conduct the experimentation.

4. Conduct the Experiments

The next step is to follow the plan that you have written. While conducting the experiments make yourself keep detailed notes on everything that you observe. You may even want to take pictures or make sketches of your observations along the way. These notes are vital to your experiment because they are needed when you write your report and make your display.

5. Analyze Your Results

Once you are finished with the experiment, organize your notes. You may want to recopy your notes so that they are more organized and can be easily understood by others. Then, analyze them. Ask yourself, what happened, did the results agree with your hypothesis, and so on. Make graphs and charts to represent the data to help you analyze it.

6. Conclusion

Be sure you answer the question you asked to start with. Use as much detail as necessary. Also explain everything that went wrong and how you might change the experiment if you were to do it again.

7. Make your Display

The display is crucial because it tells about your project. The display must be neat and well organized. It should include background information, the problem, your hypothesis, your procedure, your results, your conclusion, your report, and graphs and charts. You can also include photos or drawings of your experiments.