

# Elements of a Successful Project

## 1. PROJECT DATA BOOK

A project data book is your most treasured piece of work. Accurate and detailed notes make a logical and winning project. Good notes show consistency and thoroughness to the judges, and will help you when writing your research paper.

## 2. ABSTRACT

After finishing research and experimentation, you are required to write a (maximum) 250 word, one-page abstract. An abstract should include the purpose of the experiment, procedures used, data, and conclusions. It also may include any possible research applications.

## 3. RESEARCH PAPER

A research paper should be prepared and available along with a project data book, and any necessary forms or written materials. A research paper helps organize data as well as thoughts. A good paper includes the following sections:

- a. Title page
- b. Table of Contents
- c. Introduction
- d. Experiment
- e. Discussion
- f. Conclusion
- g. Acknowledgments
- h. References

## 4. VISUAL DISPLAY

You want to attract and inform. Make it easy for interested spectators and judges to assess your study and the results you have obtained. Make the most of your space using clear and concise displays. Make headings stand out, and draw graphs and diagrams clearly and label them correctly. Leave your glassware and chemicals at home.

Display Hints:

**a. Make sure the display reflects the current year's work only.**

**b. A Good Title**

Your title is an extremely important attention-grabber. A good title should simply and accurately present your research. The title should make the casual observer want to know more.

**c. Take Photographs**

Many projects involve elements that may not be safely exhibited at the fair, but are an important part of the project. You may want to take photographs of important parts/phases of your experiment to use in your display. Photographs or other visual images of human test subjects must have informed consent.

**d. Be Organized**

Make sure your display is logically presented and easy to read. A glance should permit anyone (particularly judges) to locate quickly the title, experiments, results and conclusions. When you arrange your display, imagine that you are seeing it for the first time.

**e. Eye-Catching**

Make your display stand out. Use neat, colorful headings, charts, and graphs to present your project. Home-built equipment, construction paper, and colored markers are excellent for project displays. Pay special attention to labeling graphs, charts, diagrams, and tables. Each item must have a descriptive title. Anyone should be able to understand the visuals without further explanation.

**f. Correctly Presented and Well-Constructed**

Be sure to adhere to the size limitations and safety rules when preparing your display. Make sure your display is sturdy, as it will need to remain intact for quite a while.