

Science Fair: Secrets To Success

A Friends of the Science Fair Publication

Display Secrets

1. Use a self supporting display board, made of either cardboard or foamcore.
2. Color is good. Choose an attractive background color for the project elements.
3. The size of the display board is governed by Science Fair rules. Make sure you read the rules. Your project WILL be measured.
4. Descriptive titles are best. Accurate use of scientific terms is helpful to the judges.
5. Know the correct pronunciation and definition of all terms used in the project.
6. Be sure to have all necessary project elements on your display board, including:
 - Problem Statement
 - Hypothesis
 - Materials (clearly stated)
 - Procedure (step by step)
 - Data (well organized)
 - Results
 - Conclusion
 - Applications
 - Abstract

Tips on What to Include

7. Make graphs and data charts and label them so that what they show is clear to the judge at a glance. A judge should be able to understand your results from your graphs and data charts without having to read your report.
8. You will have to explain your project orally to several different judges. Be prepared (practice!) with a 2-3 minute description of your projects, its results and the scientific process you used to get your results. Also, be prepared to answer judges' questions about any aspect of science upon which your project touches. A smooth, informative presentation is worth lots of points. Practice on your classmates, with your parents and with your teacher.
9. Each project is judged on its own merits on a 42 point scale. Every project has the potential to achieve a superior rank

Secrets to a Good Preparation

10. There are forms which must be submitted with your project. Make sure, before you start collecting data, that you have all the pre-project approval forms. If you use humans in any way in your project, including to answer surveys and questionnaires, you MUST get approval from your school ethics

committee before starting to collect data. Under certain conditions, you may need consent forms from your subjects. Check with your teacher.

11. Start early. Good science projects take time. Know your school deadlines and have everything done a week before the deadline. Your teacher and parents will thank you if you do.

12. Show your stuff: Display photos (no faces of people allowed), apparatus (within the rules), videos (if appropriate), etc. Use your imagination to make your project stand out from the rest.

1. Above all, have FUN. Science is great fun. SCIENCE RULES!!!

The South Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair is a gathering of the best science and engineering projects from all middle and senior high schools, public and private, in South Florida.

This brochure is intended to supplement the materials received by the school from the Regional Science and Engineering fair. We hope it will help students selected to compete on the regional level.

The suggestions in this brochure do not come from Miami-Dade County Public Schools or the South Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair. The information in this brochure has been compiled for Friends of the Science Fair from the experience of students who have achieved success with their projects at state and international science and engineering competitions.

Friends of the Science Fair (FoSF) is a non-profit support group created by the Dade County Council PTA/PTSA.

Its sole function is to allow Miami-Dade County student scientists (including mathematics and engineering students) to compete on an equal footing with other Florida science students in Science Fair competitions.

FoSF raises funds from many sources to assist local science fair winners to pay for travel, lodging and expenses when competing in state, national and international science fair and Junior Academy of Science events.

Donations of cash, products and award trophies are always welcome. Volunteers are greatly appreciated. Checks may be made payable to "Friends of the Science Fair" and sent to:

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Because FoSF members are all volunteers, we do not have office staff on call. To contact us, please leave a message at 995-1102 and one of us will return your call as soon as we can.