

Science Fair Report Guidelines

These are the General guidelines for completing the science fair report

Section 1: Title Page

Center your title several inches below the top of the page.
In the lower right-hand corner, list your name, grade, and the date of report.

Section 2: Abstract

Write this section after you have completed the rest of the paper.

An abstract is a brief summary of the entire paper. The abstract should be a half or full page in length, but never more.

The abstract should include:

1. What the project was about.
2. a summary of the procedures used.
3. A short paragraph on your results and conclusions.

Section 3: Table of Contents

List each section and the page number where each section begins. Complete the table of Contents after writing your final draft. Be sure to include the abstract.

Section 4: Statement of the Problem and Hypothesis

The project should be described in the form of a question that will be answered by the student's research and experimentation

Example Problem: "How does nitrogen in soils affect plant growth?"

Example Hypothesis: "Limited amounts of nitrogen added to soils will stimulate plant growth".

Section 5: Introduction

Explain how and why you chose this project. Include any pertinent background information that relates to your topic or research. The background research on you topic belongs in this section. The introduction should be 1 to 2 pages in length

Section 6: Materials and Methods

List materials vertically and be as specific and as accurate as possible. This is because other may wish to duplicate your study and cannot do that unless you are precise.

Explain your procedure's step by step, Include drawings, pictures, diagrams, graphs, or photos as needed to help explain your methods. If you constructed any materials or equipment, be sure to put the discussion of it in this section. If a part of your study, experiments completed need to be carefully and precisely described.

Section 7: Results

Present your results neatly in text, tables and graphs. Graphs should be presented on standard, graduated graph paper or done using computer software programs or similar applications. Many can be found on the Internet, and many are free.

Include a detailed explanation on how you interpreted your data and results. This will allow the reader to follow your line of thinking through to the conclusions.

Section 8: Conclusion

Write this section after you have finisher preparing the Results section. Briefly summarize your results using the past tense. Re-state your hypothesis (from Section 4) in the present tense, and describe how your data supported or did not support your hypothesis. Give your interpretation of your results and describe their significance. Do not hesitate to mention difficulties or problems you experienced, or mistakes you made or may have made. Include other information, such as findings of other similar studies, reports, articles, or website data that relate to your project. This is why conducting thorough background research is so important. Give one or two suggestions for what the next experiment might need to improve or change the results to better support your hypothesis. Give examples of procedures you might change to achieve more supportive results.

Section 9: Acknowledgments

Rarely does scientific experimentation follow through, or even get started without some help. Thank the people, groups, or businesses who helped you with your project, being sure to describe what they did to help you.

Section 10: Bibliography

List any books, articles, papers, websites, or other sources, including unpublished works and interviews that you used for information.

Permission Forms

1. All students must be interviewed by their classroom teacher sponsor before projects begin.
2. Parents will sign a permission form (approval Form 1B) when details of the project are discussed and approved.
3. If your project involves humans or animals, the student **MUST** receive permission from the Scientific review Committee of the Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair to check safety, legality, and to assure that guidelines, rules, and laws will not be violated. (you can contact your teacher on how to go about getting the correct forms and establishing the correct connections)
4. Special forms are presented to the Scientific Review Committee for all projects involving humans or animals. These will be sent back to the teacher with approval, conditional approval with modifications, or rejection prior to the start of the project.

All forms are going to be located on the Dayspring website in the event of lost forms. Please keep looking to the site for updates of information as well as information going home.

The three forms that are attached and need to be sent back are:

- 1) Student Checklist 1A (to be filled out by student)**
- 2) Approval Form 1B**