

Science Project Steps

1. Choose a topic. Be sure that it interests you. Don't pick one because you think it will be easy. Talk it over with your parents when you have decided, fill out the Science Registration Form, have your parent sign it, and submit it to your teacher. Once you have turned in your registration form you cannot change your topic.
2. State your purpose as a question. What is it that you want to find out?
3. Research your problem. Look at any books/websites that might help you, make observations by simply looking at things, talk to people, and find out as much as you can about your topic. Write down any ideas and where you got them. Also, keep note of all information needed for citing your resources.
4. Form a HYPOTHOSIS. What do you think is going to happen? Based on what you know or found out from step #3, what do you think the results of your experiments will be? ***After doing the experiments, it may turn out that your hypothesis is wrong. It is OKAY if this happens!!***
5. Plan your project. How will you test your hypothesis? What experiments will you do? How will you measure the results? How and where will you keep your information organized? Be sure to keep notes and write down everything that you do and see happening with your experiment.
6. Collect all your materials. Find a place to keep things where others won't bother them. Let other family members know what you are doing so they don't throw your materials away.
7. Conduct your experiments. Remember, the more you do an experiment the more reliable and accurate the results will be. Do each experiment at least three times. Use something to measure your experiments: a ruler or yard stick if you are measuring distance, a clock to measure time, etc. Check the measurements to be sure you are correct.
8. Record your data. As you do your experiments, you will want to write down what you saw and found out. Organize this information in an orderly manner. Put the date, time, and any other useful information. Write your numbers and words clearly.
9. Draw conclusions. What did you learn from your experiments? Have you proved or disproved your hypothesis? You made a guess about what you thought might happen. Now tell what really did happen. Scientists very often discover that their hypothesis was wrong and this is OKAY!
10. Prepare your titles, charts, graphs, drawings, and diagrams. Make them large enough to see, neat, and colorful.
11. Construct your science fair display. Get your cardboard display from your teacher so you can show all your work.
12. Plan a timeline so that you don't leave everything till the last minute. If you need help, tell your parents and your teacher, the earlier the better.
13. Relax and enjoy yourself. You will do a GREAT job!