



Science Fair *Experimental Projects* (6th – 8th Grade)

Targets for an Excellent Science Fair Project

	Advanced Proficient 5	“TRANSLATED”
Problem <i>(Double Points)</i> (x2)	States problem as a question, provides evidence that it comes from the student's personal interests or experiences, and represents a genuine learning opportunity for the student. Specifically addresses a valid scientific or mathematical concept, or has a beneficial application to some aspect of society.	Ask a real question where you don't know the answer. Make it practical.
Preliminary Research	Uses five or more reputable sources, cited correctly. Cites at least four types of information resources. Makes a clear connection between each source and the problem in the student's own words.	Research thoroughly. Connect the research to your question.
Hypothesis <i>(Double Points)</i> (x2)	Hypothesis is complete (in one sentence), testable, and clearly addresses the stated problem. Shows a direct connection to their preliminary research.	Try to answer the question using your research.
Procedure & Materials	Experiment is a well-constructed test of the hypothesis and is performed several times. Procedures are outlined in a step-by-step fashion that could be followed by anyone without additional explanations. All relevant materials are listed.	Plan an experiment to answer your question. Repeat it enough times to be sure of your answer. List all the steps and materials needed.
Results <i>(Double Points)</i> (x2)	Summarizes the data in a way that clearly describes what was discovered using graphs or charts. Discusses relationships between the variables and thoroughly analyzes trends/patterns. Makes well-reasoned predictions about what might happen if part of the experiment were changed to better test the hypothesis or answer a further question.	Show what happened in your experiment. Use pictures, graphs, and words to make it really clear. Explain what made a difference and what didn't. * What change might make the experiment a better test?
Conclusions	Conclusion completely answers all aspects of the problem, states if the hypothesis was supported or rejected, and clearly cites evidence to explain why.	Use your data to answer your original question. Explain why your hypothesis was right or wrong.
Visual Quality of Display	Project is appealing and neat, and is readable at approximately 2 feet distance. It is well organized and clear, makes striking use of inventive or amusing visuals and/or models, and uses language and spelling flawlessly.	Make your project fun to look at with pictures and colors. Use large, clear lettering. Check grammar and spelling.