

# Science Fair Poster Board Layout #1: Experimental Projects

The display poster board is an important tool for the presentation of your research.



The objective of a display board is to present the main areas and conclusions of your project so that others can easily understand what you accomplished. This is not the same as your written report. The actual project will have a lot more detail that will be shown in your written report. Think of the display board as a commercial for your project. The commercial will state the main points and key features of your research so that others will understand what you did and how you did it.

Like books, people will read your board from left to right and top to bottom. It is a good idea to arrange your project information so that observers can read your display in logical order. Part of your challenge is to make it easy for others to understand your work. The only section not following this convention is the title which should be located at the top center of your display.

The main areas of a poster board could be the ones shown in the chart on this page. The areas are explained below. Each section presented on the display board should be only one paragraph if possible. The actual areas you use will depend on the rules of your fair and the choice of exact information you want to present.

Check with your teacher or fair coordinator before using this format.

## Title

- The title of your project. Your name.

## Problem/ Purpose

- State the problem that you were originally concerned with and explain why you selected the topic you did. Summarize what was known about the topic, focusing on key theories or experiments.

## **Hypothesis**

- State your hypothesis in a complete sentence.

## **Procedures**

- State the procedures you followed. What experiments did you perform and why? Make sure your experiments are a logical, valid test of your hypothesis.

## **Data and Graphics**

- Present any significant data, graphs, and pictures in this section. Visual representations of your results, if done effectively, are worth thousands of words. Make the graphics colorful and easy to read.

## **Results**

- What did you find out from your data? Explain the results here.

## **Conclusions**

- Was your hypothesis right or wrong? Clearly show that your conclusions are or are not supported by your data. Be sure to compare experimental data with the control data. Can you make a new statement that you know to be true based on your research?

## **Recommendations**

- From everything you learned would you make any recommendations for further research? Write your ideas for research in this section.

## **References**

- What sources did you use to research your topic?
- What references would be useful to someone who wants to learn more about this area? During your research did you come across good or even great resources of information?
- Include a variety of reliable research sources (books, articles, reliable websites)--a minimum of 4 references (NOT Wikipedia) in correct format.

## **Other Display Materials**

### **Abstract (required)**

- An abstract is a brief overview of your project work. It should include the title, your name, and a brief summary of your research project. It should be no more than one typed page with 1 or 2 paragraphs. It is a good idea to have copies of your abstract available for visitors to take with them.

### **Report (required)**

- Have available a typed, well-organized report, with a works cited page. It should go into more depth than the information on the poster.

### **Data notebook/journal**

Include your daily journal for the project. Your journal/lab notebook should record what was accomplished on each day, included procedures completed and data collected.

### **Models or Research Apparatus**

Did you create any models or experimental setups that are important in explaining your work? Three dimensional objects and pictures are often more effective than words at communicating complex ideas. Find out from your teacher if it is appropriate for you to display models or apparatus and whether or not you can show them working.

Be prepared to answer questions about your work.