

Science Fair Poster Board Layout #2: Research Projects

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



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

Like books, people will read your poster 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 poster board should be only one paragraph if possible. Tri-fold poster boards are the most stable and provide plenty of display room.

Title

- This section should include: The title of your project. Your name(s) .
- Try to make your title clever and catchy; a subtitle can be a succinct description of the project. When using a tri-fold board, the title is usually placed at the top of the center board. Place your name(s) below the title.

Purpose/ Background

- State the purpose of your research and an overview of the subject you covered. Why is the topic important to you and the reader?
- Be sure to discuss the development of this idea over time. How was early thought/theory different on this topic? How did researchers come up with this subject or idea? How did this lay the foundation for later work; i.e., what is its place in the development of scientific progress?
- This section may be 2-3 paragraphs in length.

Data and Graphics

- Present any significant data, graphs, and pictures in this section. Visual representations, especially color photographs or illustrations, of your research, if done effectively, are worth thousands of words.
- If controlled experiments are used, be sure to explain the control vs. the experimental variables.
- Make the graphics colorful and easy to read. All graphics should be described in a caption.

Details of your Topics

- What are the most important facts you found out about this topic? Write these facts in paragraph form so it is easy for others to grasp what you learned.
- You need to demonstrate that you understand the significance of key experiments and the concepts used to explain this topic.

Recommendations

- What is next? During your research did you find related topics you would like to study later? What would be interesting experiments for further research in this field?

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.

Models or Research Apparatus (optional, but very effective)

- Did you create any models or experimental setups that are important in explaining your topics? Three dimensional objects and pictures are often more effective than words at communicating complex ideas.

About the science fair:

- Be prepared to answer questions about your poster presentation. Your responses will reflect your overall depth knowledge about your topic.
- If you are tardy on the day of the science fair, you will NOT be allowed to participate in the science fair.