Science Fair Display Board How-To

Step 1: Purchase a tri-fold board:
- You will need a tri-fold board that unfolds to be 36” tall by 48” wide.
- If you were not able to order one from Mrs. Willyerd, then you can purchase one at Wal-mart in white that is 35.5” tall by 48” wide (that will be fine).
- The dimensions of the board are usually printed on the back of the tri-fold.

Step 2: Now you have your board, so what should it include?

- Organize your information like a newspaper – that means you want to organize it so your reader/judge can follow your project from beginning to end going from top to bottom, then left to the right.
- Include each step of your science fair project:
  - Abstract
  - Question
  - Hypothesis
  - Variables
    - Controlled Variable
    - Manipulated Variable
    - Responding Variable
  - A Summary of Background Research
    - Any diagrams that would help explain the background research
  - Materials and Procedures
  - Data
    - Charts
    - Photos
    - Models (to display on table at science fair)
  - Results
  - Conclusions / Discussion of Results
- Also include:
  - Your Name
  - Grade
  - School
Step 3: Your First Impression…Making the Board Look Good:

- **Border**
  - Try to purchase some eye-catching border or border that will go along with the theme of your project.
    - These can be purchased at:
      - Office Max
      - Hobby Lobby
      - United Arts in Education in Columbus off Fishinger Rd.
      - Online: [http://www.teacherstorehouse.com](http://www.teacherstorehouse.com)

- **Letters**
  - Try to purchase some pre-cut letters at the above places. This makes for neat and clear titles.

- **Mounting**
  - Use construction paper that coordinates with the color of your tri-fold board, border, and letters to place behind the different components of your project.
  - You will want to cut neatly, so the piece has straight-edges and not jagged like you just ripped it!
  - Cut off any excess white paper – avoid printing out an entire sheet of white paper and gluing the entire piece on the tri-fold board.
    - Make sure you cut it into a nice rectangular shape and mount it on the construction paper before adding it to your board.

- **Rubber Cement**
  - Purchase rubber cement (must be 18 years old or older to purchase).
  - With the supervision of your parents, use the rubber cement to affix the white paper printed with the information onto your construction paper.
  - Rubber cement is the best thing to use because it dries clear and you can rub off the excess.

- **Easy on the Eyes**
  - Always think to yourself: “If I was a judge, would I be able to read this easily?” Self-check your work in this way.
  - Not too wordy – make sure you utilize bullet points when you can and don’t add too much text for any one section. The tri-fold board is not a copy of your final report but a tool to help you explain. If the judge wants more detail, then he/she can refer to your final report.
  - Is the text large enough? Could you read it easily without being 2 inches away?
    - Try to use 16-point font in Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri that will be clear to read. 16-point font is fine for any information section.
    - Headings and/or Titles should be larger, so it stands out as the heading/title of that section.
  - Use matte paper – glossy photo paper will be hard to read.
Avoid placing backgrounds behind the text. Below is an example of where it might be difficult to read text on a background.

**Step 5: Get Table Display Ready**
- Use visual aids to enhance your project.
  - Models
  - Materials Used
  - Equipment/Instruments Used
  - Final Report in 3-Ring Binder
  - Samples from the Project
- ½ - 1 yard of fabric that coordinates with your project is a great enhancement that really polishes the project. Students can place this on the table and set their tri-fold board on top along with other visual aids.

**Step 6: Know What You Want to Say**
- Write down information about the different steps of your project on separate index cards.
- That way you have this information to study from as well as use if you start to freeze up during judging.
- Have your parents pretend to be the Science Fair judge, so you feel more confident and are ready to answer any questions.

**Step 7: Science Fair Day**
- Make sure you have all your visual aids for your table display.
- You should also bring your tri-fold board, if you haven’t already brought that to school.
- Bring a good book that will keep you occupied while you wait for the judges.
- Science Fair Etiquette:
  - You may wait for your judges by sitting and reading at your project.
  - When ANYONE approaches your project, IMMEDIATELY put down your book, stand up, and welcome that person with a handshake and smile.
  - Always stay with your project!