



Science Fair: Project Tips

- **Make sure to follow the scientific process when completing your science fair project!**
 - The first criteria judges look at is if you actually **followed the scientific method thoroughly**
 - Then the judges look at the **level of difficulty** of your experiment
 - It is important to use the scientific method because if you don't show all steps in your experiment, the judges will not be able to see the work out in, so they might be led to believe your experiment was easier to execute than it was. You can show your steps well in the methods and materials section.
 - If your project topic was difficult and at a high level, but you didn't conduct it well using the scientific method, you will get a low score
- **Make sure you know what you are talking about!**
 - Have your **full background research completed** before you proceed to present to your judges
 - Judges and your teachers are **looking for your knowledge on your project topic**
 - Make sure to read some **peer-reviewed sources/journals** and use them to increase your understanding of your project
 - Judges **will ask you questions based on the background of your experiment**
- **Have clear data.**
 - Most students just make random charts/tables/graphs for their project that don't have any importance
 - **Look through your data and determine what is most relevant to your study.** You probably don't need to show it all to the judges, as in most cases, some of your data will be irrelevant
 - Make sure to use **data that is clear, precise, and relevant**
 - If you are not able to explain why this table or graph is relevant to your conclusion, don't use it
- **Practice your presentation!**
 - This is by far the most **important tip you can possibly get for science fair!**
 - Your presentation is the **most important part of the project** because it sums up everything that you have been working on for months
 - If you are nervous to present, **practicing will take away some nerves** because you will know exactly what you will say.
 - **Judges don't like when people just read off their board or slideshow.**
When a student is well prepared and speaks from the knowledge in their



head while looking at the judges, it shows that they are knowledgeable in their chosen field, and deserve an award for their hard work.

- Make sure to **practice your presentation at least 5 times** in front of many different people that will actually give you constructive criticism
 - If there are not enough people you can find, practicing in front of a mirror is also a great idea!
- Doing your presentation the 1st time in the actual science fair is not a good idea!
- **Have a neat display of yourself and your project: board/slideshow/presentation**
 - Don't forget to **take pictures of your experiment**, these could come in handy for showing the judges your set-up and making your display look nicer. They also prove that you actually executed your experiment.
 - When presenting, **make eye-to-eye contact with your judge**. This will show them that you know what you are talking about and have confidence.
 - If you find that it is too scary to make direct eye-contact, **look at the judges' foreheads or right above their heads, they won't know the difference!**
 - **Have a clean board/slideshow display**
 - Have the elements of your experiment organized
 - Definitely have a color scheme, do not just use a bunch of random colors
 - Don't write paragraphs on your display; ALWAYS HAVE BULLET NOTES
 - This way, if you forget something, you can use the bullet notes to refer to what you were about to say.