Whitman College

Science Fair
March 9, 2013

Your Science Project:

Question:

Science projects are investigations of a specific testable question or problem that you have. It should be a question you are interested in finding the answer to. It should be a specific question- not something you could just look up on the Internet, but something you need to investigate. The steps you take as part of the investigation and your results are what you will be reporting as your project.

Make sure that your investigation does not include testing on any animals or include the culture of any pathogenic organisms. If you have any questions about the safety or appropriateness of your investigation, contact us BEFORE beginning your project.

Journal:

You are required to have a journal with your project, much like a science notebook you might keep at school. The journal should be a personal description of your work on the project and be a separate notebook from any of your school notebooks. The journal should include dates and the amount of time spent working each day. It could include descriptions of setting up your experiments. Record new and unexpected events as well as new questions that you might have. Include any problems that you may have had and how you solved them. You may keep charts and make sketches or diagrams. Be sure to make entries in your journal as you do the work and not several days later.

For more guidance on your journal, see:
http://www.mcsf.net/laboratory%20notebookor%20journal.htm

Your Abstract (Report):

This must be on display with your poster at the science fair. An abstract is a short, typed summary giving the most important information about your investigation. It should not be more 250 words in length, but should contain the following information:

Title:

Objective or Hypothesis: The main idea of your exhibit. What is the basic question you had in mind when you started your project?

Methods:	A summary of the procedures that were used in the experiment. What did you do to find out the answer to your question?
Results:	Discuss your data. Compare your results with what you expected and what others may have found in similar kinds of investigations. Were your results what you thought they would be? What did you find out from your investigation?
Conclusions:	Briefly summarize your results. Be specific. Was the hypothesis correct? Was the objective successfully completed?

Other questions you should prepared to answer for the judges:

1. Where did I get the idea for this project?
2. How successful were you, and how could you have been more successful?
3. Describe the accuracy of your results and possible sources of error.
4. What is another project you might like to work on?

Display Board:
The display board is the main method of communicating your project to the judges and other visitors to the fair.

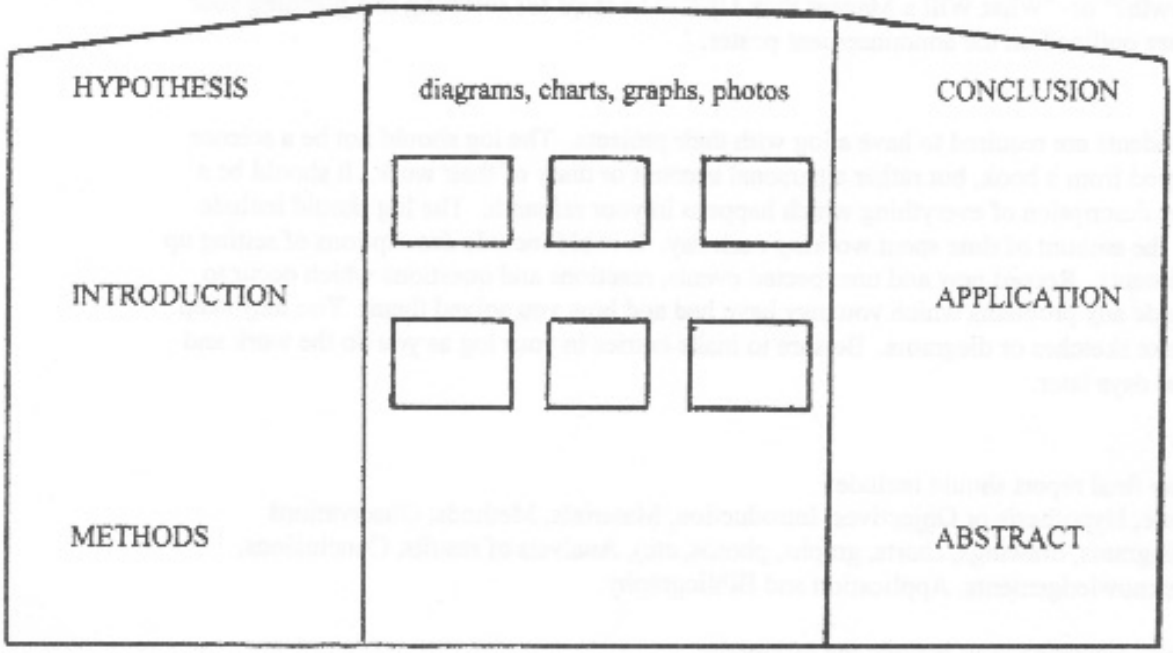
1. Construction should be durable and the poster should be able to set on the top of a table without being held or taped. A purchased tri-fold display board is ideal.
2. Labeling should be clear, neat and informative. Correct all spelling errors.
3. Make your explanations clear and large enough to read. Appropriate photos or diagrams can be helpful.
4. See the attached illustration for the correct poster board layout.

Judging:
Prizes will be awarded by the judges to the First, Second and Third place projects, as well as some additional prizes for Honorable Mentions. Judges' decisions are final.

Registration:
Registration for the Science Fair is due Friday, March 1.

Questions?
Questions can be directed to Mary Burt, Science Outreach Coordinator at Whitman College.
burtmb@whitman.edu
509-522-4441

TITLE



Reference: Mid-Columbia Science Fair website, retrieved on Jan 9, 2012: http://www.mcsf.net