

# SCHOOL-HOME CONNECTION

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SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT 2013-2014

## PARENT LETTER

Dear Lyndon Parents,

Participating in a science fair is an enjoyable way for students to learn how to conduct experiments to solve problems. Students will make displays that show how they went about conducting their experiments.

This science fair is not quite like the science fairs you may have experienced. While models and modeling are important to science, we are not encouraging students to display models of such things as volcanoes and the solar system. Instead, we are encouraging them to ask questions and then to set up experiments to answer those questions. In this way, they learn to approach science as scientists do.

I will be sending home more information from time to time, but in the meantime, I would like to suggest how you might support your child's progress on his or her project.

- Talk to your son or daughter about what he or she might be interested in finding out. Work together to formulate a question that can be answered by setting up an experiment.
- Take your son or daughter to the library or help him or her search online for information about the topic.
- Help your son or daughter think about an experiment that would help answer the project question.
- Help gather the materials necessary to conduct the experiment. Observe and ask questions as your son or daughter carries out the experiment, but be careful not to conduct the experiment or draw conclusions.
- Help with gathering materials for the project display. Allow your son or daughter to make the display with only some help from you.

Obviously, we want the projects to be done by the students and not by their parents, but this can be a good time for parent and child to work together. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

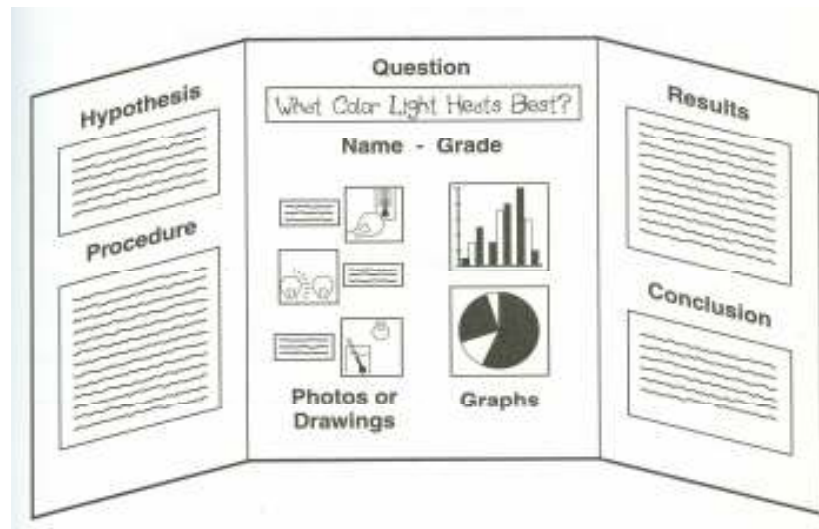
Mrs. Hague

## PROJECT TIME LINE

Date Due	Turn In	Things to Do
Sept. 27th	Parent Signature Page	Both parent and student will sign and date the signature page and turn it in.
Oct. 4th	Topic	Choose and submit 3 possible topic ideas for approval.
Oct. 18th	Project Question and Hypothesis	Create your project question and form a hypothesis to submit.
Nov. 1st	List of books, Internet addresses, and other recourses used.  Completed IN CLASS!	Research the topic using books, the Internet, and other resources.
Nov. 1st	At least 10 facts about your topic.  Completed IN CLASS!	Write down facts from the books and sites you researched.
Nov. 15th	List of materials for your experiment.  List of procedures for your experiment.	Design an experiment to test the hypothesis.
By Dec. 4th	Nothing	Conduct the experiment to test the hypothesis by this date. Make sure to write down observations and data. Take pictures of yourself while doing the experiment.
In Class (Dec. 5th-20th)	Sketch (quick drawing) of tables or charts.  Copy of pictures to be used in project display.	Make a table, or chart, for data.  Present at least two pictures of items from the experiment or you conducting the experiment.
In Class (Dec. 35th-20th)	Rough Draft of report  Completed IN CLASS!	Hand write the project report. (Rough Draft)
In Class if needed. (Dec. 5th-20th)	Display Summary Sheet (Filled Out)  Rough Drafts of charts or graphs, pictures, and report.  Final paper  Project Display Board	<b>Make the project display, or exhibit at home, finish final draft paper if needed at home.</b>
Jan. 8th		Projects are Due. Turn in all materials including final paper, display board.
Jan. 16th		Present the project at the Lyndon Academy Science Fair afterschool. Students are not required to present at the Science Fair. Students who wish to be considered for awards need to stay to present to judges.

## SAMPLE PROJECT DISPLAY

Your project display will communicate to others what your project is all about. The display is three-sided and has a brief description of the various parts of your investigation. You can make your display from poster board, or use a ready-made project display board. These ready-made boards can be found at most stores that carry office/school supplies.



## DISPLAY SUMMARY SHEET

You will find the summary sheet at the end of this packet. You will need to fill this in as you go along with your project. If you do not have enough room on the lines provided, please feel free to continue on a new sheet of paper. Just be sure to include all of your summary sheets when you turn in your final project.

## FINAL REPORT OUTLINE

1. Cover Page-In the upper middle of the paper, type the title of your project or your project question. Also include your name on the cover page.
2. Project Question-Begin your report by stating your project question.
3. Hypothesis-State your hypothesis.
4. Research-Write about what you found out from books, the Web, and other resources that helped you design an experiment and answer your project question.
5. Experiment Plan-Describe the design for your experiment. Be sure to describe the variables and how you set up a fair test.
6. Procedure-Describe how you carried out your experiment and what you found out.
7. Present Data-Include your data tables and graphs.
8. Conclusions-Compare your results to your hypothesis. Did your findings support your hypothesis or not?
9. Bibliography-Write your bibliography. A bibliography includes the names of books, magazines, websites, and other resources you used for your project.

# WRITING MODEL:RESEARCH REPORT

A RESEARCH REPORT PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT A TOPIC. REPORTS CAN BE SHORT OR SEVERAL PAGES LONG.

Cover Page

Topic and/or Question

Name

Grade

Mrs. Hague

Next Page

Title

Paragraph 1: In your introduction you should tell me what your topic is, what your question is, and what your hypothesis is. Be creative!

Paragraph 2-3: You should have a couple of paragraphs about the research you did on your topic. Tell me about what you found out in the books, on the websites, and any other resources you may have used.

Next Page

Paragraph 4: Tell me about your experiment in this paragraph. Include how you came up with the experiment, the materials you used in the experiment, and a step by step list of your procedures.

Graphs and Charts: You can include them at the bottom of a page or put them on a page of their own.

Paragraph 5: This is your conclusion paragraph. Remind me about your topic and what the results of your experiment were. Also state if your hypothesis was right or wrong. If your hypothesis was wrong tell me why you think you were wrong.

Last Page

Bibliography

On the very last page (all by itself) you will put the sources you used.

You may use books, magazines, websites, and any other resources you can find. You must use at least one book. You can not get all of your information from the internet.

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Please do not hesitate to email me  
or stop in to talk to me about  
any questions you may have.  
Good Luck and happy experimenting!

Mrs. Hague  
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