

Science Fair Research Paper Set-Up Guide

Introduction:

- This should be a paragraph that introduces the reader to your topic.
- An interesting fact can be used to start this introduction; just make sure your fact is still relevant to your paper
- Be sure not to state too much information in the introduction. Leave your facts for your body paragraphs.
- The introduction can be vague as long as you develop your ideas in the body paragraphs.
- The intro should flow from broad to specific ideas (ending with the thesis or hypothesis statement).
- It must include your hypothesis/thesis statement.

Body: You must have AT LEAST 3 body paragraphs.

- Introduce the main point or idea of your body paragraph.
- Support that main idea with evidence or facts that you have found in your research
- Use in-text citations (according to APA or MLA style formatting) to cite sources of information where it's being used; not original thought or 'common knowledge'
- Use transitional terms/phrases to tie your facts/evidence together and help your paper 'flow'. DO NOT JUST STATE FACT AFTER FACT!!!

Conclusion:

- Your conclusion should briefly summarize the main point of your paper and each of your body paragraphs (tie in all the information into one 'flowing' conclusive paragraph)
- End with a statement that will make your reader either continue to think about your topic or make them feel accomplished.

References:

- It is expected that you use a proper formatting style to generate your References page. Using the Microsoft Office application (formatting to APA or MLA style) is the best way! It sets up the paper automatically for both in-text citations and the references page! 😊
- You must have at least 6 reputable sources; 2 of them must be non-internet sources. Online Science Journals are still considered "books", therefore, they qualify as "non-internet" sources.
- Search engines, encyclopedias, and dictionaries (online or not) are NOT valid sources.
- One source (of the 6) **MUST** be the ISEF Safety Rules: <http://www.scisvc.org/isef/>

All final papers will be typed:

- ✓ It is expected that all students will use APA or MLA style when typing their Science Research papers. (APA is preferred. Visit <http://apastyle.apa.org> for more information. The tutorial on the site is an excellent resource to understand this type of formatting for a research paper.)
- ✓ The length of the paper should include:
 - 1 title page (set up according to proper format; APA or MLA)
 - 3 FULL pages for research paper (minimum).
 - 1 References (APA) or Works Cited (MLA) page
- ✓ **NEVER** use the words **I** or **me** in your paper. (no pronouns!)
- ✓ **Only** use the metric system when writing about anything that includes measurements.
- ✓ An **ABSTRACT** is unnecessary at this point; one will be required AFTER experimentation. (this note is here to rid possible confusion due to APA research paper format typically including an abstract)