

Science Fair Vocabulary

1. conclusion – your opinion about what happened during the experiment; inferences belong in the conclusion; the last step of the scientific method
2. controls – things that remain the SAME during the experiment
3. data – observations and measurements taken from your experiment – they should be listed in the form of a chart or graph so you can clearly see the results from the data
4. dependent variable – also called the responding variable – the change that happens in your experiment because of or as the result of the independent variable being changed
5. display – backboard, often three-paneled, on which is attached the title of the experiment, parts of the written report, graphs and charts, pictures, etc to tell the story of your entire experiment
6. hypothesis – an EDUCATED, testable response to the question you have posted as your problem – this is used to guide your entire experiment
7. independent variable – also called the manipulated variable – the ONE THING you change in your experiment to see what affect it has
8. logbook – a notebook (usually a three-ring binder) that you can use to organize your experiment – in contains everything from your experiment; daily notes, doodles, brainstorming, questions, problems, procedures, EVERYTHING
9. materials – a list of ALL the supplies you use for your experiment
10. observations – things you see and witness during your experiment
11. procedure – a list of the steps you go through to perform your experiment from start to finish – very specifically laid out so someone can redo your experiment
12. question – what you want to know about your topic that forms the basis for your hypothesis
13. research – any information you gather from different sources (books, the Internet, magazine, articles, interviews of specialists, etc) which helps you know more about your science project topic
14. results – a simple, factual summary of what happened in the experiment