

# **Project Classification Resource**

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## **READ BEFORE FILLING OUT REGISTRATION FORM**

### **What are the type of projects that can be entered?**

Before detailing what a project is, it is important to know what it is not. A science fair project is not a research paper or a book report with visual aids or a presentation of facts that have been accumulated.

Instead, it is a project that is based on a scientific principle that is researched in detail, then something is built or an experiment is performed in order to demonstrate this principle. What was done and learned is then communicated at the fair with an exhibit that consists of a display of work done, a board, and for 5th grade and up a report and journal. The final aspect of a science fair project is an interview by judges.

Most fairs require that all types of projects be based on an experiment. We are different. We do not. We want students to get excited about learning and diving deeper into science, so we offer the ability to choose a type of project that does not require an experiment to be performed, but it must be based on a scientific concept that is then communicated by what is built.

The project areas are:

1. **COLLECTION** – A collection of science related items, which are scientifically categorized and labeled accurately. (ie. rocks, butterflies)
2. **MODEL / DEMONSTRATION** – Non-experimental project that represents what something is realistically like (model) or demonstrates a scientific principle by showing how something works with action (demo). Must relate to science. (ie. an ear, a rocket, working heart model, working volcano)
3. **EXPERIMENT** – Follows the scientific method while answering a question using a hypothesis as the basis for the experiment. It must have a control and multiple items/subjects being tested varying only one factor at a time. Keep in mind, for proper analysis of results, generally the experiment is either repeated multiple times or a large group of items are being tested at the same time. Performing an experiment one time and/or with a few items does not yield enough data to determine if your hypothesis is proved or disproved.
  - a. **PHYSICAL** – An experiment related to/with non-living things.
  - b. **BIOLOGICAL** – An experiment related to/with living things.

### **What are the parts of the exhibit?**

An exhibit will consist of:

1. **BOARD** - (Typically one is bought to use.)  
Overviews the project in text, pictures, diagrams, graphs, etc.
2. **DISPLAY** -  
Is the collection, model, items being used for the demonstration, or used for the experiment.
3. **JOURNAL** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up and 4<sup>th</sup> graders that have opted to do a journal & report on registration form  
A handwritten daily or weekly log in a bound notebook that details research & what was done.  
This should be full. It is to have everything researched, done, learned, data, conclusion, etc.
4. **REPORT** - 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up and 4<sup>th</sup> graders that have opted to do a journal & report on registration form  
The sections needed are listed in the rules. (8th grade and up need to type their report.)
5. **ABSTRACT** -  
A 1-page overview of the project, included in report. (Applicable to high school group only.)

**NOTE:** The Journal & Report are done by 5th grade & up, and 4th graders who opt to on the registration form.