Roosevelt MS Science Fair Frequently Asked Questions

Display Board

In the direction of wasting less paper and taking fuller advantage of our tablet computer technology, the school will not be providing ready-made display boards (as was done for the first time last year). This year, students have two options regarding science fair display boards.

The first option is to buy or make a board similar to those used in past years. Such a board is generally a minimum of 2 feet high x 3 feet wide, with 3 feet high x 4 feet wide being the most common. These have two vertical folds such that they can stand up by themselves in an open position. Please see the Randall Museum Student Guide linked at this site for assistance with constructing such a board with reused cardboard (pp. 10-11). If you are unable to purchase such a board or get materials to construct one, please speak with your science teacher about this right away. He or she will be able to help get you set up.

The second option is to create an online slide-show or other type of web-page collection that allows people to explore and learn about your project using a tablet computer or phone. Students choosing this option will still need to create a display board, but it can be the smaller format, 17 inches high x 11 inches wide. This board will contain the title of your project, a brief abstract—summarizing your science question, what was done, and some of the key results from your experiment or research—and a QR code that will allow people using the code reader on their iPads to link to your online content. Note that since this board isn’t big enough to fold and stand on its own, you will need to attach a fold-out kickstand of some kind so that it can stand upright by itself on a table surface.

For all display boards, make sure text can be read easily by someone standing about three feet away. The one exception is the Bibliography or Works Cited section, which should be in a smaller font size, toward the bottom of the board. (Note that these lists must include the names and, when possible, authors of your sources of information, not just the URL/web-address. Follow the link to citation guidelines, also below under Required Components for Research Projects.) Any drawings, diagrams, and/or handwritten text on the final product must be in ink or marker (not pencil).

Note too that the computer lab is open during the lunch period, where you can use printers and display board-related materials.

Required Components for all Science Fair Projects

For ALL projects (See below for the complete list of what’s required for an experiment or research project, respectively)

• Full Name, Science Teacher’s Name, Period # (written clearly on the BACK OF THE BOARD)
• Title
• Materials & Procedures* (do not include what was involved for the display board, just the experiment or model)
• Conclusions*
• Bibliography/Citations*  

For Experiments

• Title (indicates what experiment is about)
• Hypothesis (your prediction of result)
• Materials & Procedures (for experiment, not board)
• Data/Results (must include ≥ 1 graph)
  o Identifies variables
  o Presents data using tables & graphs
• Conclusion
  o Do you accept or reject the hypothesis? Why?
  o What can be improved? What would next steps be?

Bibliography (list of sources of information used)

For Research Projects

• Title (indicates the specific subject researched)
• Purpose (your scientific question as a statement)
• Materials & Procedures (for model only, not board)
• Review of Research/Discussion (must include ≥ 1 graph)
  o Cite research to explain & answer your question
  o What did you learn? How is it relevant to world?
• Conclusion
  o What can be improved? What are next steps?
• Works cited (list of sources of information cited)
• Research must use credible sources that can be cited
For Small Format boards that accompany iPad-accessible content

- The board must include the first two components listed above, under “For ALL projects”
- The board must also include a **scientific abstract**, comprised of the following (in 200 words or less):
  1. A one-sentence introduction (what’s the topic?)
  2. Statement of the scientific question you sought to answer or problem you sought to solve
  3. One sentence about why you approached the question the way you did, or why it’s important or relevant
  4. One sentence about how you did your investigation (What kind of experiment? What were your primary sources of research?)
  5. One sentence about the importance of what you found out through your experiment or research
- Components with an * listed above, under “For ALL projects,” should be clearly labeled and accessible through your online web-portal

**City-Wide Science Fair Eligibility**

Roosevelt MS has received 12 entry slots for the Randall Museum San Francisco Science Fair this year. If you’re selected as a finalist during the classroom level presentations (January 23 – January 26), and you wish to be eligible to apply for one of these slots, your project must follow the guidelines linked at this site—chief among them being that YOUR PROJECT IS AN EXPERIMENT and seeks to answer a scientific question. From the Randall Museum Science Fair Coordinator,

“We are excited for this year's Science Fair to take place at the San Francisco Zoo the week starting February 20. For more information, please visit the Science Fair [webpage](#). See the Science Fair calendar [HERE](#).

Please heed our 3 main rules:

1) No photos of the scientist on the project board
2) Write your name/school/grade on the back
3) Only the project board will be accepted - no parts of your experiment

By having participating in the SF Middle School Science Fair you give permission for the San Francisco Science Fair and the Randall Museum to publish your name, grade, school, teacher’s name, project title, and/or photograph in any format or venue as part of a list of science fair winners.”

**What if I’ve been ignoring the science fair project until now?**

The first step is to identify if you’re the kind of person who simply needs the pressure of an approaching deadline to get yourself going, or the kind of person who benefits from getting help from someone else.

If the former, don’t make it harder for yourself by worrying that you’ve put it off too long; you still have time. Although it’s recommended that all of your experimentation or research is completed by Monday, Jan 9th, your science teacher isn’t looking at completed display boards until the following Monday, Jan 16th. You do need to get yourself going though, right away, or you will be in a tough spot.

If you’re like most people, and it helps you get stuff done when you know that someone else is holding you accountable, there is help available. First, try to find some relief knowing that you’re not alone, that most people—including most of your teachers—have fallen behind on something at some point in their lives. Please do not fear that you will be judged when you admit to this. Is there someone you know who you think can help your efforts to figure out what you need to do, how to break this big task into smaller steps? If no, at the very least, let your science teacher or one of your other teachers know, so they can help. (If you’re unable to do so before or after class-time, we’re often available for periods of time during lunch or afterschool.)