Displaying Your Research

Your display represents all the work you have done. There is no one correct way to set up your board. It must, however, make sense and include all of the steps in your investigation. Your board should tell the story of the project in such a way that it attracts and holds the interest of the viewer. You want to make your project explain itself by using pictures, diagrams and graphs. This is the part where you get to say, “Look what I did! Isn’t it great?

Tips for a great display:

- Be sure your board is thorough, but not too crowded. Put as much information on your board as you can without it getting too cluttered.
- Use bright contrasting colors that will show off your wonderful project.
- Include a title that is large enough to see from a distance. In general, make all letters clear and neat.
- Type all of your information. Place all typed material on a colored backing, such as construction paper. Mat your paper by leaving a border of 1/4 to 1/2 inch around the edges of each piece of typed material. Use a paper cutter so that the edges will be straight.
- Use computer-generated graphs.
- If you have many tables and graphs, place them on top of each other so that the top chart can be lifted to reveal the ones below.
- Balance the arrangement of materials on the backboard. This means evenly distributing the materials on the board so that they cover about the same amount of space on each panel.
- Check your material for spelling and other formatting errors before you tape it to your board.
- People usually read left to right, so plan your board like this.
- You should have your question (problem), hypothesis and procedure displayed, using a large font. You should display summaries of your data. All of your data should be available in your Protocol Book, should one of your judges want to see it. Your conclusions should also be displayed.
- Be sure to include photos on your display. This adds interest and also helps to communicate to others what your project is about.
- Check your ISEF Display and Safety rules for what can and cannot be at your display.

Also prepare a short (3-5) minute oral overview of your project that you can say to your judges. The overview should include why you are interested in this topic, your purpose, hypothesis, what you did, how you did it, your conclusions, how your data support your conclusions, and what further questions there are to be answered based on your research. Your overview should end with “Are there any questions?”
Sample Display Boards

**Title**
Your title should draw attention to your project

**Hypothesis**
State clearly the question you intend to explore in your project

**Procedure**
Use a step-by-step format
1. Pictures also add clarity
2. But they should clearly show what you did
3. Make sure your steps are clearly written

**Data and Observations**
Use charts, graphs, and pictures to make your statements more clear

**Conclusions**
Make sure you are answering the question in your hypothesis. Did your project uncover any other questions to explore?

**Acknowledgements**
Make sure you say "thanks" to all those who helped you with your project!