

Practical Hints for Science Fair Projects

Science Fair Projects should be FUN and educational, with the emphasis on FUN. Here are some helpful hints which will help you think of and carry out a science fair project you will enjoy learning from.

- **Pick something you are interested in.**

Since science fair projects require a lot of effort, you need to be interested in your subject or you will not have a good time doing the project and you will not learn much from it. In trying to pick a science fair project I would start by writing down the things I was interested in. Once I had done that I would try to find a project which would involve studying the things I was interested in.

For example, if you like music you could try to measure and compare the volume of sound from different CD's to try to determine which CD's are loudest. Or you could try to determine the effect music has on people's emotions. If you like sports you could try to measure how the distance a basketball travels in the air is related to the angle at which it is thrown upward.

- **Get all the assistance you can in performing and understanding your project, but do the work yourself.**

When you do the work yourself you will get a much better understanding of why things do and do not work as expected.

- **Don't wait until the last minute to start your project.**

A good project requires that you spend a lot of time thinking about how it works. In addition, careful measurements require you to repeat your experiment more than once. That takes time.

- **Your project doesn't have to be complicated to be a good science fair project.**

- **The most important things to demonstrate with your science fair project are that you understand your project and have explored the scientific and technical issues behind your project as well as you can.**

Don't get upset if your experiment(s) demonstrate that your hypothesis is incorrect. Historically some of the most important experiments have been those which disproved the original hypothesis for conducting the experiment. You may even want to revise your hypothesis in light of what you find out from your experiments especially if you find a more interesting line of research.

- **Sometimes the most interesting science fair project is the one suggested by your first project.**

- That's one reason for starting early. Also you may find you want to follow up on this year's project for next year's science fair.