

Display Preparation Hints: Please refer to the “Backboard Components” document that was previously distributed.

Most of you won't have room for the abstract on the backboard; it is easier for the judges to read it sitting down anyway, so have a copy of the abstract in a sheet protector on the display table so that the judges and visitors can easily read a summary of the project.

Make sure that your display includes the most important part of your project: the results in graphs/tables and with some descriptive text.

It is far more important to use the display space for the results and conclusions than listing your materials or a lengthy description of your procedure. Acknowledgements should be brief and not take up valuable space.

Displays are boring to look at if they contain very large blocks of text. Make sure you separate the text into paragraphs and perhaps use some coloured text subheadings to help break up the monotony. Bullet points can also be effective.

Display:

1. All written work should be done in a font such as Arial, size 36 so that it can be read from a distance.
2. Paper should be neatly mounted on coloured construction paper or bristol board. A heavier bond paper such as 67lb white cover stock is sturdier and easier to glue onto the mounting material without wrinkling.
3. Titles such as Purpose, Hypothesis etc. should be larger and easily read. WordArt is simple program to use for this.
4. Charts and tables should be clearly labeled with a title and on both of the axis. Make sure the font size is big enough to read from a distance.
5. Avoid, if possible, gluing across the hinges in the board. After the project is folded up a few times, the paper tends to come unglued. The project title can be done in pieces so that it doesn't have to be folded. Section titles that need to go across a hinged section, can be scored in the center.
6. Bring some two sided tape for quick repairs.
7. ***Make sure that there are no spelling mistakes. If there are mistakes, it looks like you were careless and may suggest that you were also careless in conducting your experiments.***

Lessons Learned:

You will need to determine how much room you have for each section, and edit the material to fit. The objective is to present a summary of your project, not the entire notebook.

1. Decide on your title (background, purpose etc) sizes to determine how much room you have for each section. ***The left panel of the display*** should be used for Background, Purpose, Hypothesis and perhaps Materials, ***the centre two sections*** for a brief description of Procedure and Observations and Results and ***the right side*** for conclusions, discussion, applications, acknowledgements.

2. Use a paper cutter, or ruler and scissors to cut your paper. Rough, uneven edges look messy. The border size should be same for everything, eg. ½ inch all around or whatever size you choose.
3. Make sure your pieces will fit in the space you have allotted. Adjust the margins of your pages or reduce font slightly to accommodate the text you have. Try to arrange your material so that it does not overlap the places where your board is hinged or where the top and bottom sections come together. **Use a consistent font size for your written work.**
4. If a section such as Background, is longer than one page, it should be mounted on one piece of Bristol board.
5. Use a glue stick to glue the cover stock to the Bristol board or mounting material.
6. Place these glued pieces in between heavy textbooks for a few hours.
7. Place the pieces on the display board, and using a ruler and pencil, mark where each piece is going to be glued.
8. Use Spray Mount to attach your pieces to the backboard. It is toxic, messy and dries very fast. Read the label for safety instructions. I would suggest that this is a parental task.
9. To avoid overspray, do the spraying inside a large cardboard box. Spray the back of the mounted material, and quickly place on the board in the marked position. You can make slight adjustments for about 30 seconds. I have lined the back of the box with newspaper and kept adding fresh sheets after every few sprays to reduce mess.
10. You may want to put some text books on top of the pieces on the board to ensure that stick.
11. Do not put the display board in an upright position for a few hours.
12. If you decide to replace paper that has been already glued on, try to lift it off without taking the paint as well. "Goo Gone" is a solvent available at hardware stores, Home Depot and will soak through the paper or glue and remove any of the sticky residue.

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