

# 10 Tips to Creating a Winning Display

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your project display is the first thing that people will see when they stop by your booth at the science fair—so you'll want it to look fabulous!

What is a display? A science-fair display is made up of a sturdy backboard that shows off the key points of your project. Your display should include the following: project title, your question, hypothesis, experiment (including materials and procedure), data (including tables, graphs, charts, and photos if you have some), results, conclusions, and future experiment plans. Your display should also include your science-project report and any other items that will help people understand your project, like models or equipment that you used during your experiment.

It is important that your display be neat, colorful, and organized. Below are some tips to designing an award-winning display.



- 1.** Your backboard should be an upright board that sits on top of a table and is able to support itself. It is usually three-sided, but it does not have to be.
- 2.** The backboard should be no larger than 108 inches (274 cm) high, including the exhibit table, 30 inches (76 cm) deep, and 48 inches (122 cm) wide.
- 3.** You can either buy a pre-made backboard or build your own from heavy cardboard or pieces of wood, attached by hinges. Steer clear of thin poster board or cardboard because they bend too easily. A company called Showboard sells pre-made backboards ([www.showboard.com](http://www.showboard.com) or 1-800-323-9189).
- 4.** Use computer graphics or self-stick letters to create headings for each part of your display. Make sure your lettering is easy to read.

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(continued)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Type the following parts of your display. Use spell check before you print out the pages. Also, remember that you have limited space on your backboard, so plan ahead.
  - **Project title:** Your project title should be large enough to be read from a distance of roughly 3 feet (1 meter). Use larger letters for your title than for anything else on your board. This will help it to stand out.
  - **Your question**
  - **Your hypothesis**
  - **Experiment** (including materials and procedure): Summarize your experiment so that it fits on one or two sheets of paper.
  - **Data** (including tables, graphs, charts, and possibly even photos): If possible, use a color printer to create colorful graphs and tables.
  - **Results:** Summarize your results so that they fit on one sheet of paper.
  - **Conclusions:** Your conclusions should be a summary of what you learned. You should try to do this in a paragraph or two. Also, say whether or not your hypothesis is correct.
  - **Future experiment plans:** As you experimented, you probably thought up new questions, or even how you might do the experiment differently if you were to do it again. Share those ideas in this section.
6. Use colors on your display, but don't get too flashy or the colors could be distracting.
7. Before you stick anything to your backboard, lay the letters and pages onto the board. Space things out evenly and neatly. Rearrange things until it looks just right!
8. Use rubber cement or double-sided tape to post your papers. Avoid using white school glue because it can cause paper to wrinkle.
9. Don't forget to gather any models or other props that you'll want to display on the day of the science fair.
10. Don't forget that your project report and project summary are part of your display! When you set up your display at the science fair, remember to place them on the table in front of your backboard.

# Plan Your Display

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Use a pencil and this blank backboard panel to sketch out how you plan to arrange your display. Erase and sketch again until you are happy with the way your display looks!

Keep in mind that your display should include all of the following: project title, your question, hypothesis, experiment (including materials and procedure), data (including tables, graphs, charts, and photos if you have some), results, conclusions, and future experiment plans. Usually, your project title should be centered at the top of the middle panel.

	<b>Project Title</b>	
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# Checklist for a Good Display: Do You Have What It Takes?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your display have what it takes to wow the judges? Below is a checklist of what judges are looking for when they stop by to check out your display. Before you attach anything to your backboard, make sure you have checked everything off this list!

- Does your backboard meet the size requirements?  
(no larger than 108 inches (274 cm) high, including the exhibit table,  
30 inches (76 cm) deep, and 48 inches (122 cm) wide)
- Can your backboard stand up all on its own?
- Does your display include all of the following?
  - \_\_\_ Project title
  - \_\_\_ Your question
  - \_\_\_ Hypothesis
  - \_\_\_ Experiment (including materials and procedure)
  - \_\_\_ Data (including tables, graphs, charts, and possibly even photos)
  - \_\_\_ Results
  - \_\_\_ Conclusions
  - \_\_\_ Future experiment plans
- Is your display arranged in a way that is easy to follow and understand?
- Are your project title and other headings large enough to be read from a distance of roughly 3 feet (1 meter)?
- Is your display typed?
- Is your display colorful, but not so flashy that it is distracting?
- Is your display neat?
- Is everything spelled properly?