

SF BACKBOARDS: DISPLAYING YOUR HARD WORK!

Backboard Summary

This comes directly from the San Diego Science Fair Website: "The display is essentially a compromise of content versus time. Ideally, it should stand on its own, describing the major elements of the project and should be easily read from 3 feet away. If logically and neatly organized, it should require no more than sixty seconds reading time. While appropriate graphs, photographs, illustrations and equipment displays are encouraged, gimmicks (e.g., flashing lights) are not. If, after reviewing the display, you feel confused rather than hungry for more, it has not served its primary purpose -- but keep in mind that it is only a small part of the overall project."

The Basics

- The display will be set up at the fair along with the Science Fair Notebook and any equipment you wish to display.
- The backboard briefly summarizes the problem, hypothesis, procedures, results, and conclusions.

The Board

- made out of cardboard or foamboard
- 3-sectioned and self-standing
- You can buy these at Art & Office stores (Michaels, Staples) for around \$6-\$12.
- ONLY attach paper, poster paper, cardboard or fabric, so no electronics or samples of your materials.
- no wider than 4 feet when opened and self-standing
- Height should not exceed 4 ft, but be at least 2 feet tall.

Attachments

- The final Science Project Notebook is attached by at least 2 feet of thin rope to the lower left portion of the MIDDLE DISPLAY section.
- Mrs. Gillum and I will provide this at the Regional SF.
- **The name of the student, school, and science teacher's name should be clearly written on a 3x5 card and adhered to BACK of LEFT CORNER**

What do I include on my backboard?

- First, you need a title. Come up with a catchy question or title that will grab everyone's attention and say "That board sounds cool, lets go check it out!"
- Attach **summaries** of: Statement of the Problem, Hypothesis, Procedures, Results: photographs/art, graphs, and data tables, results/discussion, Conclusion.
- *Optional:* Purpose, Materials, Recommendations
- All written work, graphs, and tables must be computerized and professional looking.
- Do NOT put your name or pictures anywhere on the front of the board.
- Do NOT put any pictures of faces on the board.

You should also...

- Include just summaries; the judges can refer to your notebook for the specific details.
- Thoroughly edit and spell-check each of these "parts"
- When checked, print out the documents using a relatively large font, about 16-22 size. The boards should be easy to read, from about 3 feet away.
- *Cut everything with a paper cutter*
- Place each part on a colorful piece of paper, making a "frame"
- Colorful cardstock (available at Michaels) is great
- Should you have extra pieces, you can stack them behind each other and lift up to read more.
- When you have all of your parts ready to go, arrange your parts on the board.
- Test out a few different layouts.
- Don't glue the parts down until they are all perfect and you have a clean-looking layout that looks nice.
- Feel free to include relevant, professional-looking graphics and/or stickers to spice it up.
- Use a gluestick to paste the work on your board - white glue makes it look clumpy and double sided tape doesn't usually last very long.

Selling Yourself!

- The goal of the backboard is to get attention!
- Think of it as an advertisement, briefly showing off your hard work.
- Ideally, the judges should look at it, understand the main concepts and results of your experiment, but want to learn more!
- Then, they'll go for your notebook where the real goods are!