Guidelines for Preparing a Display Board of Your Findings/Work

The display board is a visual representation of your entire project, from question to conclusion. Keep your exhibit neat, uncluttered, and to the point. All photos and illustrations should include captions and photo credits.

Display and Safety Rules

1. The following ARE NOT allowed as part of your display at the Shoreline STEM Science Fair (please DO share pictures!):
    a. Living organisms such as plants, soil, mold, bacteria
    b. Food
    c. Taxidermy specimens, preserved animals, human/animal parts or body fluids
    d. Hazardous or flammable chemicals
    e. Glass or sharp objects
2. If you are doing a multi-year project, NO previous year materials can be displayed on the backboard. Graphs can include data from previous years for comparison purposes.
3. Make sure all procedures are complete in your research plan. They should be clear enough so that anyone can read the procedure and be able to duplicate the experiment.
4. Avoid tall table model backboards made of foam. Any backboard above 36" should have 3 hinges, with pins in place, if the board is made of anything other than cardboard or foam. No Velcro can be used to hold the backboard together.
5. Models that do not work or explain the projects should not be displayed. Take good pictures to display on the backboard or put them in the notebook.
6. Backboards must be no more than 30" deep, 48" wide and 108" high, including the table.
7. On the back of your display write: Name, School, and Grade.
8. No electrical outlets are available at display stations.

Tips for a successful display board presentation

1. Demonstrates an understanding of the topic, the experimental/design plan, and the results.
2. Clearly demonstrate that the project is the result of your own work.
3. Shows careful planning even if the research or design did not take long to complete.
4. Is neatly hand written or typed, attractive, and well organized. Simple and well stated title.
5. Includes pictures, charts, and graphs that are necessary to explain your work.
6. Tells a complete story – problem and solution with accurate and valid observations
7. Although your project is **not required** to be a new discovery it **should be** original in approach and presentation and **not** just a report summarizing the topic or the product of a premanufactured kit (e.g. plastic model from a hobby kit)
8. Your presentation should be self-explanatory.
9. Gives credit to those that helped.

General Display Board Example for all Categories

This is an example of how a display board is to be organized in the Central Sound Regional Science & Engineering Fair, the Washington State Science & Engineering Fair, the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair, and the Broadcom MASTERS. If you are entering these competitions along with the Shoreline STEM Science Fair, use this format.