



Feeling frustrated with your science project? Don't give up!

Don't lose heart! Science often involves trying new things that may not work as expected, which can be both very frustrating and exciting.

The Science Fair is not just reserved for successful projects, so bring your project, no matter what the results are! Read below for tips on how to prepare your poster/ tri-fold presentation if things don't go as expected.

I am running out of time and have not finished my experiments!

Your poster/tri-fold is a great way to share your data and get advice or ideas on how to improve your experiment. Show that you **understand your topic** with your background section and have a clearly stated **hypothesis**.

Instead of a **results and conclusions section**, make a **future directions section**:

- Describe the possible results you might expect from your experiment and how these results agree or disagree with your hypothesis.
- You could also discuss other ideas for testing your hypothesis.

My experiments are not working!

Follow the advice above, but also explain how you might **improve your experiment** in the future.

My experiments seem to be working, but I'm not measuring any effect!

If your experiment results in no effect, think about what is true if your data does not support your hypothesis, state this in your conclusion and discuss your results.

Here are a couple of things to think about:

- **What are the limits of my experiment?** For example, are the tools you have sensitive enough to measure the effect? State any limits in your conclusions.
- **Are there possible unintended conditions changing in your experiment?** In some cases, it can be hard to keep everything but your manipulated condition constant in your experiment. Be sure to explain what you can and cannot control in your conclusions.

The results of my experiment do not agree with my hypothesis!

Although it's nice to be able to predict what we expect, it is not uncommon to have unpredicted results. Often, these new results provide important new information.

If your results do not agree with your hypothesis, describe in your **conclusions section** how these data change what you thought to be true when you came up with your initial hypothesis. Also, if you have time, additional research in your topic may help with interpreting your results.