

Science Fair Project Selection Essay Guide

Name

Academy of Science and Technology

Special Topics in Science

Teacher

Due Date

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This will likely be the first major essay assignment in the Special Topics in Science class. The first and most important part of writing in this class and for most scientific pieces is APA formatting. The former STS teacher, Dr. Sara Fox, always recommended the PurdueOwl site for all the information regarding citing a source. The link for this website can be found here: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html. Make sure to pay attention to the close details as they have been heavily weighted in past years, sometimes worth up to 20% of your grade. It may be helpful to have a classmate peer-review your papers as well.

Before writing a paper, it is important to research thoroughly. The ideas that are present in this paper will likely become a part of that year's science fair project. Researching early can save a researcher much time in the future, as early research can help determine the feasibility of a project and the desired results. You will likely need to cite at least 5 articles in total for this essay, however, it is more realistic to cite 3-5 articles per project idea with at least 1 article being from a scientific journal. Once again, make sure you follow the APA citation guidelines from the link above. When using the information from the articles, there should be little to no direct quotations, only paraphrasing, additionally, each paraphrased line and quote must be cited with an in-text citation following the APA formatting. For this essay, as well as sections of future essays such as the introduction of your research plan, the majority of the lines will be accompanied with an in-text citation.

In terms of the content of your essay, you should discuss two to three project ideas with three to five pages, preferably being closer to five, without including your annotated bibliography. The project proposals should be from a variety of fields and include motivation and

the general plan for completing the project. This plan does not need to be specific but it needs to demonstrate that the proper preliminary research has been done. The final thing that needs to be communicated in the project proposal is difficulty. The Academy of Science and Technology has a history of success at science fairs, with students placing at the international science fair every year. While you are not expected to produce an international level project, you are expected to produce work that will reflect the prestige of the Academy. Your project will reflect on your teachers, mentors, peers, and the Academy as a whole so your goal should be to produce a high-level project.

The final part of your essay should be the pros and cons of working with a partner on a project. There needs to be both as both exist, but your pros and cons should relate to your unique project ideas. Additionally, if you are already planning to work with someone else on your science fair project (which I would recommend past your freshman year), then you must write separate, unique essays that have mostly different project ideas.

If you wish to see an example of an average to above average, typed freshman year project selection essay, see the link below. You should strive to somewhat meet this guideline, if not surpass it as there are some mistakes.

Project Selection Essay Example: Received a grade of a 3.4

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cV2X7gdA7kKqUQnLt2aVvx1EEHRCpdj4/view?usp=sharing>

Example 2: grade received was a 4.1

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11r5XI144MsVSAA34piLb8WSQDQ5ZFYQsIEFo7hdiwi6k/edit?usp=sharing>

Feedback: Use less quotes and paraphrase more instead