Data Logbook Requirements

Project Data Books are required to be on display at project for judges!

In settings such as science and engineering fairs where space and permitted equipment/materials are limited, the project data book becomes one of the most vital aspects of a science and engineering project. It becomes the lifeline between the actual experimentation and the results as indicated in the exhibit. In most cases, it is the only verifiable aspect of project results for the judging team.

Here are a few tips for preparing your project data book.

- Use a bound notebook in which pages cannot be removed; a loose-leaf or spiral notebook is not permitted. Information must be hand-written.

- Use metric or S.I. units.

- It is important that things are written down as they occur. Write the results of your project immediately after every segment of the experiment. Sign your name and the date for each insertion.

- You may insert computer-generated graphs into your project book; however, you must initial over the edges to verify that it was entered on the date indicated.

- Project data books can become rather messy and students are often tempted to type their notebooks into report form. While it is a good idea to keep a computer backup of information, the project data book remains more important than a neatly typed copy. With today's technology, judges and others realize that it is very easy to falsely create computer files and date them retroactively.

- Please remember that any materials prepared for the Capital Area Science and Engineering Fair may not include any identifying information, such as your name and school, to ensure fair judging. No identifying information should be included in your project data book.