LOG BOOK

THE DATA/LOGBOOK – THE MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENT OF YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT

- Throughout your research experience, you must keep a **PROJECT DATA BOOK** (green book) and a **PROJECT LOG**.
- Your project log must reflect 5 hours of research per week during the school year. It is imperative that you put in at least this amount of time especially at the start when you are searching for a question and then in developing your project.
- A project data book is a very valuable piece of work. Accurate and detailed notes make a logical and successful project. Good notes show consistency and thoroughness to the judges and will help you when writing your final research paper.
- Your project data book will be a running listing of all your activities complete with the times you did the activity. When you start your experimentation, this log book will also serve as the place where you record your data.
- Data tables are also helpful. They may be a little "messy" but be sure the quantitative data recorded is accurate and that units are included in th data tables.
- Make sure you date each entry.
- This is an important document so that scientists can follow the progression of your research from the very first day when you were looking for an idea all the way through to the final day of your data collection and analysis.

Here are a few pointers that are easy to follow. As a research scientist, you should practice these suggestions through your entire research experience. They should help keep you organized, and certainly will impress any science fair judge. It's a great opportunity to show off all of your hard work!

YOU MUST INCLUDE ALL YOUR ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDE ME WITH PROOF OF 5 HOURS OF RESEARCH A WEEK.

1. **MAKE ALL ENTRIES IN PEN NOT IN PENCIL**. Write on the right hand side pages only. If you make an error, correct it by drawing a single line through the error and then rewrite your correction. *DO NOT* erase or use white-out. Do not obliterate an error by coloring over it. This is a permanent record of all your activities associated with your project.

2. **ALWAYS DATE EVERY ENTRY**, just like a journal. Entries should be brief and concise. Full sentences are not required. It is better to start each entry with bullets or dashes. Sign each dated entry. (See the example below.) **MAKE SURE YOU ENTER THE TIME OF THE ACTIVITY** for example, 7:10 PM – 9:00 PM – INTERNET SEARCH in the area of environmental science.

3. **DON'T WORRY ABOUT NEATNESS**. You should write, though so that it can be read. Do not re-do your logbook just because it looks sloppy. Think of the logbook as your "Dear Diary" for a science fair. It's not just for recording data during the experimental phase of your project and it's not just for your teacher.

4. **USE THE DATA BOOK FOR ALL PHASES OF YOUR PROJECT**, like jotting down ideas or thoughts for a project, class meeting times, phone numbers, contacts or sources and prices of supplies, book references, on-line references, diagrams, graphs, figures, charges, sketches, or calculations. Write down everything!!! Other log entries include your brainstorming, library/internet searches, phone calls, interviews, meetings with mentors and your advisors.

5. **USE IT REGULARLY AND WRITE DOWN EVERYTHING**, even if it seems insignificant, it could later be extremely useful. For example, it's the middle of the night and you're frantically preparing that final report but you can't remember the title of that crucial reference. It should be in your data book. Make sure that you describe things completely, so that when you read your notes weeks or months later you will be able to accurately reconstruct your thoughts and your work.

6. **TAPE ANY LOOSE PAPERS,** photocopies of important items in the data book. Loose papers or other unsecured items are prohibited as they tend to fall out and can end up missing.

7. **MAKE SURE YOU RECORD ALL OBSERVATIONS AND DATA DIRECTLY IN YOUR DATA BOOK once you start your data collection.** If that is not possible, then staple photocopies of data in the data book.

8. Remember, keeping up a great data book throughout the entire duration of the science project really pays off later. Not only will a nicely maintained data book impress your judges at the fair, it will help you stay out of trouble later when you need to look back and provide details of what you did.

9. The data book may be a determining factor in selecting a project to compete in a science fair. If 2 projects are similar, the data book may be the deciding factor.

I have data books from previous students so you can look at one time at any time.

<u>EXAMPLES OF 3 PAGES FROM A DATA BOOK. They include different activities.</u>

THIS PAGE INDICATES THAT THE STUDENT IS JUST STARTING RESEARCH AND IS LOOKING FOR ATOPIC AND PROJECT IDEA.
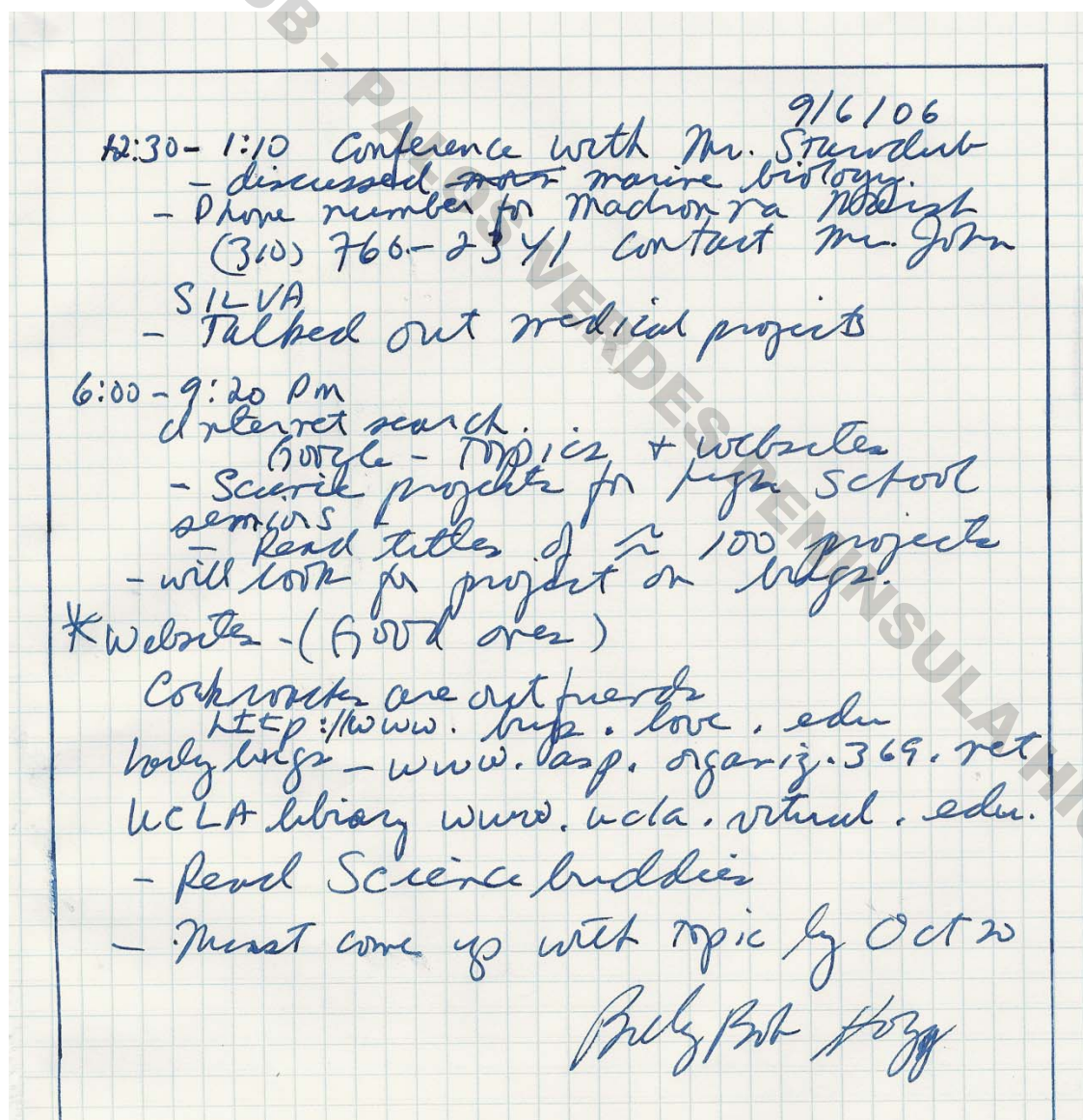
10/20/06

9-10 AM - Drove to UCLA library.

10-12:30 PM - library search of Science
journals.
- Botany
- Commercial Scientist.

Looked at Science journ. Read
articles of Sep 2/2006
- Wheel of life² - (bacteria)
- Moss express - insects + mites
- Drugs as depression busters

- Skimmed over 12 sites
12:30-1:30 Drove home.
3-4:30 PM - Talked to uncle about
mentors. calls to make.

Dr. IRA McCael - Entomology

Dr Ruth Ginsburg - e-mail
rgins @ cox.net

Billy Bakley

THIS A DATA COLLECTION PAGE. EXPERIMENTATION HAS STARTED AND THE STUDENT IS RECORDING OBSERVATIONS.

2-3:00 Pm

Data Trial #3

2/6/2007

Plant number	①	②	③
Height (cm)	6.34	6.88	3.92
# of sprs	41	34	16
Color	blue	green	blue

- Watered - increase to 6 oz each - no food.
- Repotted to larger pots.

I must call the plant man at the nursery for more plant food.

Billy Bob Hogg