

Taken from the *Science Day Standards* (<http://ohiosci.org/sds.htm>)

Expectations of Physical Display

“The score of the student’s project may be impacted by the violation(s) if either the physical dimensions or physical items rules are not followed.”

A display consists of one lightweight, usually tri-panel, bi-fold, single-sided display board with appropriate information (including graphs, data tables, drawings, sketches, diagrams or photographs), extra copies of an abstract for judges, project research notebook, research reports, research plans and documentation of research protocols. Displays at District and State Science Days are strictly poster format only. Each project shall be limited to one, single-sided display board. This means that the physical models, samples of research materials and/or purely advertising items (whether glued or affixed in any manner to the display or not) cannot be displayed and shall not be brought to District and State Science Days.

Table-top display dimensions shall not exceed 36" (91 cm) wide by 30" (76 cm) deep. The top of the display shall not be more than 85" (216 cm) above floor level or 55" (140 cm) above a 30" high table. Free-standing floor projects are not permitted at District and State Science Days. Extension of a project beyond the stated limits will result in dismantling or severe modification of the display, and **may disqualify the student’s participation.** Note that the physical display size at District and State Science Days is smaller than the size allowed at the International Science and Engineering Fair. **“The score of the student’s project may be impacted by the violation(s) if either the physical dimensions or physical items rules are not followed.”**

Use of Kits

Although the use of "kit" models is discouraged, such models may be used if they make a definite contribution to the research approach. Models made by students are preferred since they have a much greater instructional value and demonstrate that the participant has had a proportional gain in knowledge. Models, samples from a research project, or research equipment may not be displayed at District or State Science Days. You may use only drawings, sketches, diagrams or photographs.

Equipment

Use commercial equipment especially when it would be impossible to conduct the research without it. However, if such equipment is used, the participant must be prepared to describe its operation, function and the reason(s) for its use. Research equipment may not be displayed at District and State Science Days. You may use only drawings, sketches, diagrams or photographs. **“The score of the student’s project may be impacted by the violation(s) if either the physical dimensions or physical items rules are not followed.”**

Neat Displays

Displays should be neat, attractive, and stable but readily portable. Refrain from using metal, plywood, pegboard, Masonite™, string, wire, thin tape, metal or plastic pipe, flimsy construction materials or props. Light weight, tri-fold foam core or display board, for example, joined securely with tape or Velcro™ strips makes a lightweight yet rigid, readily portable display. Avoid the use of small print, indefinite colors, and crowded elements. These detract from the effectiveness of the project.

Avoid Vague or Cute Project Titles and Trick Names

Project titles should be succinct, descriptive of the project and reflect the research objective or question. Project titles should enable the reader to determine what was studied in the project. Often colonated titles work well for student research projects. Colonated titles use one to five short, attractive words first, followed by a colon and an added descriptive phrase.

[For example: *Artificial wetlands: A model for microbial sequestration of copper*; *Battle of the brains: Which gender has the most effective short-term memory?*; *Bottled spring water: Can you taste the difference?*; *Breaking the mold: The effects of pozzolanic admixtures on the compressive strength of concrete*; *Bursting the bubble: Antibacterial soap vs. regular soap*; *Corrosion: The effects of certain liquids on metals*; *Cryogenics: Determination of the cell membrane breaking point*; *Feathers, fur or fat: which will keep an animal the warmest?*; *Golf balls: Rebound height vs. distance*; *Get a grip: Hand grip strength versus forearm circumference*; *Handedness: why we choose our left or right hand*]

Do not use short, vague, trick, pet, "cute or comic" names for project titles, experimental organisms, or specimens. Identify research subjects or individuals in sampled populations by letters or numbers.

Safe Project Displays

Project displays shall not involve materials or elements that might be dangerous to exhibitors, judge or onlookers. Explosives, toxic elements, injurious chemicals or gases, open flames, or any unprotected moving parts, etc. may be necessary in the research project. The experimenter should always exercise the greatest care and conduct these phases of the work under qualified supervision and follow all protocols required by the Rules of the Intel International Science and engineering fair. However, these materials or elements cannot be on the display poster, on the display table, or under the table, at a science day.

Expectations of Display: Present Results

Students are expected to present the results of research. They are not expected to perform, demonstrate or repeat an experiment for judges or visitors. Students should have already done an experiment or conducted many research trials and thus have adequate results in the form of charts, graphs, data tables, and a research notebook—all recorded with dates—which should be with the project display.

Equipment used in research is not needed for a presentation and must be left in the laboratory or at home. Use photographs or drawings of equipment on the poster boards, in the technical report and in the research notebook to document and explain the equipment used. Items on the display backdrop, or poster boards, should be used as visual cues to keep the student's oral presentation to the judges on track or to refer to when responding to questions. The whole project, in simple form, should be visible on the poster boards. Abstracts, a research notebook, technical reports, and additional data should be in folders or for immediate reference. **“The score of the student’s project may be impacted by the violation(s) if either the physical dimensions or physical items rules are not followed.”**

Computer Simulation

Battery-powered computers may be used only for simulation, modeling, animation or data display integral and essential to understand, analyze or interpret the project results and not for general PowerPoint™ or other visual or sound presentations. Electricity will not be provided.

Items Allowed at Project with the Restrictions Indicated

Posters should display an abstract and data tables, diagrams, charts, photographs and graphs that summarize results. Research notebooks, research reports, research plans and documentation of research protocols are **expected** and may be in notebooks or folders on the table for use by science day officials and judges. Information such as postal, web and e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers is allowed only for the exhibitor. **The only photographs or visual depictions of identifiable or recognizable people allowed are photographs of the exhibitor, photographs taken by the exhibitor (with permission of individuals received), or photographs for which credit is displayed (such as from magazines, newspapers, journals, etc.).**

Students shall complete and post the following on the front of their displays:

Photographs taken by: _____

Graphics on display from: _____

Photographic permissions were obtained and are located:

Company approvals were obtained for use of trade-marked, registered or brand name products Yes No

Battery-powered computers may be used only for simulation, modeling, animation or data display integral and essential to the project results and not for general PowerPoint™ presentations.

Items Not Allowed at Project Display

If an item is not listed in the paragraphs above it is **not permitted** at District or State Science Days. Scientific equipment and supplies, other apparatus or research paraphernalia are not permitted at a display at District or State Science Days. **[See <http://www.ohiosci.org/not.htm>]**