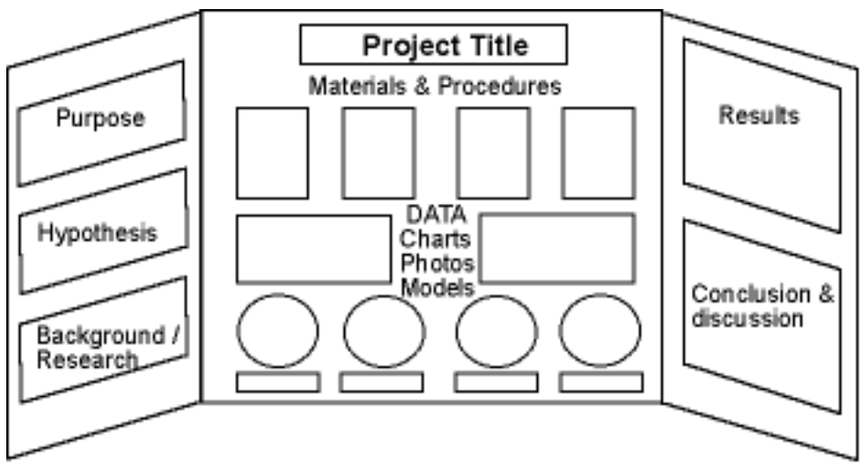
Display your Project

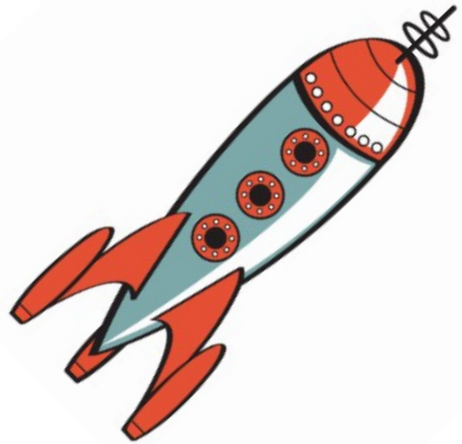
Now you are ready to share your findings with others. Your display should include the following items:

- TITLE- This describes your topic in a few words.
- QUESTION you wanted to answer
- HYPOTHESIS
- EXPERIMENT/PROCEDURE
- RESULTS
- CONCLUSION
- REFERENCES- This is a list of books or sources that you used to get your information.
- VISUAL AIDES- These are things people can see that make your project more interesting and attractive such as photos, or drawings. If possible, you might want to include part of your experiment. For example, if you grew plants, include them in your display.
- Please include your name, grade and teachers name clearly and neatly on the **BACK** of your display.

YOUR DISPLAY MIGHT LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS:



Wilshire Park Science Fair



This Science Fair Guidebook belongs to:

Grade and Teacher

Year

Wilshire Park Science Fair

Its time to get ready for the science fair! We hope you will have lots of fun and learn many new things from this experience.

This book is a guide to help you through the five steps of the scientific method. Read it carefully and plan ahead for your project's success.

Getting Started:
You should choose a topic that is interesting to you. The best place to start is the library. Our own school library or the public library has books on science fair projects and science in general. Other resources include your teacher, other libraries, The California Science Center at Exposition Park, Museum of Natural History (1st Tuesday of the month is free), bookstores and the Internet (look at Wilshire Park's Science Fair webpage for a list of internet sources).

To begin, you can choose **keywords** to research:

For example, if your topic is "How does water pollution affect ocean life?" your keywords to begin your research might be something like: "water pollution," "water pollution and ocean," or "water pollution and ocean animals."

Keep track of the sources (books, internet sites, etc.) that you use to get your information so you can include them in your REFERENCES when you present your project.
Sources I used in researching and designing my experiment:

Conclusion

Your last step is to state what you have learned. Did your hypothesis turn out to be true or false? Why do you think it turned out the way it did? You might have learned you would do the experiment differently the next time?...that is something that happens a lot to scientists. What **new questions** do you have now that you have completed the experiment?

Observations

During your experiment, you will want to write down your observations carefully. Take pictures or draw what you observe. Take careful measurements. Record the date and time of your observations and describe in detail what you see, feel, smell or experience in other ways. You may want to organize your observations in a graph, table or chart.

Results

Now that you have finished your experiment, you can think about what happened. What are your results? State your findings. What has your experiment shown?

Now you are ready to go!
The best place to start is with a scientific question about your topic that you can try to answer. It must be one that you can investigate yourself. "What causes global warming?" is a scientific question, but it is not one which you can answer through a demonstration at home. That is more the topic of a research report. A question such as, "How does acid rain destroy buildings and pavement?" is one that would allow you to do some interesting investigations.

Your Question

Once you have your question, you can learn more about your topic by reading and doing research. Then, you will be ready to form a hypothesis. A hypothesis is a statement of what you think the answer to your question will be, and the reasons why you think so. **Make a prediction!!!**
Example: If_____ (I do this)_____, then (this)_____will happen. Some people call this an educated guess. Your hypothesis may be proven correct or incorrect; either is acceptable.

Hypothesis

Supplies: Most of the materials you will need for your experiment can be gathered at the grocery or hardware store. Display boards cost about $5.00 each and can be purchased at most office supply stores.

Supplies that I will need for my project:

You will have to keep track of everything you use since your display will include a description of what you did and how you did it. Be sure to note the amount or number of items you use in your experiment, and describe them. If you are watering plants, for example, write down the amount of water you use each time. List "1/2 cup of water" rather than just "water." State what size battery you use, or what specific brand of soap you tested, etc.

Materials and Equipment

Next, the procedure tells how you will go about conducting your experiment. Describe all the steps you will take in an orderly way, just as you would if you were writing a recipe. You don't have to get it right the first time. You design your experiment and you may need to change it as you go along or do some parts a different way than you originally decided. Remember to record all the things you did.

Procedure