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Starting Your Science Fair Project/Five-Week Schedule

Taking on a science fair project might seem like a huge task, but it doesn't have to be an overwhelming experience. Use the timetable below to think through the steps in the process and follow a clear schedule.

Class Presentation/E2 Science Fair (mandatory): Monday, March 4, 9:30 AM
MISD Science Fair (optional): Monday, March 4, 4:30 PM @ PEAK
2012 Washington State Science Fair (optional): April 5-6 in Bremerton

Week 1 (January 28-February 1):

- 1) Choose a topic or problem to investigate. (If you have done a science fair project before, it should be from a different area of science).
- 2) Start a journal to keep all your notes and research along the way.
- 3) Begin research on your topic. Talk to experts, look through printed sources (books, journals, magazines, and newspapers), and search electronic sources (Internet and software).
- 4) Change your topic or problem, if necessary.
- 5) Decide how to set up your investigation or experiment, including the procedure and necessary materials.
- 6) From your initial research, write your hypothesis.
- 7) Continue your research using the best resources you found.

Week 2 (February 4-8):

- 1) Complete initial research. Set up outline for your written report.
- 2) Start your experiment or demonstration collection. Record your observations in your journal.
- 3) Begin collecting or buying materials for your display.

Week 3 (February 11-15):

- 1) Work on first draft of your report.
- 2) Continue to record observations from your experiment in your journal.
- 3) Write down or sketch preliminary designs for your display.

Week 4 (February ~~18-22~~):

- 1) Write a second draft of your report.
- 2) Start assembling display unit.
- 3) Begin designing signs, labels, charts, graphs, or other visual aids for display.
- 4) Write text background for display and plan its layout.
- 5) Continue to record observations from experiment.
- 6) Take any photographs you need.

Week 5 (February ~~25~~ March)::

- 1) Complete your experiment or collection. Analyze observations and write up results.
- 2) Write, type, and proofread final version of written report.
- 3) Have photographs developed and enlarged.
- 4) Type explanations or background information and mount them on your display.
- 5) Finish constructing your display, including graphs, charts, and visual aids.
- 6) Bring your project to school on Monday, March 5, for the E2 Science Fair.