

Regional Science & Engineering Fair Research Plan Guide

- Use this guide to help you write your research plan, then type it.
- Remember to use future tense in your plan. It is a proposal, so you are telling your audience (teacher/judges) what you plan to do, how you are going to do it, and why you are doing it.
- Use the titles in column two to label your sections (do *NOT* label them “Section 1, etc...”)

Always put your name, school, entry category, and teacher on your work	Name:
	School:
	Category:
	Teacher:
Section 1: Question or Problem Describe the question or problem being addressed.	Question or Problem:
Section 2: Rationale This is a brief summary of the background research (literature review) you are using to support your research problem. Here you also explain why this research is important scientifically and explain the impact your work may have on society.	Rationale:
Section 3: Research Question, Hypothesis, Engineering Goals, Expected Outcomes: Here you state your research question/hypothesis and tell your audience what you expect to find out: If..... then...	Research Question <u>or</u> Hypothesis <u>or</u> Engineering Goals <u>and</u> Expected Outcomes
Section 4: Materials List Here you list ALL of the items you will use in your research. Be sure to include ALL equipment, materials, and sources	Materials List:
Section 5: Procedures Here you describe in detail the procedures you will use and how you will collect your data. Be precise.	Procedures:
Section 6: Safety Precautions You MUST describe safety precautions you will use and how you will dispose of any chemicals you use.	Safety Precautions:

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<p>Examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you use scissors, a stove, or a hammer, how will you use them safely? Hot pads, goggles, gloves, parent supervision, etc. 2. If you use any liquids, chemicals, glue, etc., describe the proper disposal of any waste. <p>(MSDS/SDS sheets or the manufacturer will have this described and you will need to include these in your Project Log)</p>	
<p>Section 7: Research Methods</p> <p>This is where you describe in detail the actual methods, procedures and safety precautions you took to conduct your experiment (note the shift from future to past tense).</p>	<p><i>Research Methods:</i></p>
<p>Section 8: Data Analysis/Conclusion</p> <p>Here you describe the procedures you used to analyze the data you collected and how it answered your research question/hypothesis. What does your data tell you?</p>	<p><i>Data Analysis/Conclusion</i></p>
<p>Section 9: Bibliography</p> <p>Cite at least five (5) major references from your literature review. Be sure to use a variety of sources. *The SSEF/ISEF website can be one of your sources.</p>	<p><i>Bibliography:</i></p>