# **Science Fair project grading:**

Turning in the rough draft of your research paper allows you the chance to get my feedback before the final version which is graded. The rough draft is due on Friday, November 1st. In order to help you make sure that everything is included, please use this self-check and write me any notes to help explain anything that is missing, incomplete or that you’re still having trouble with for any reason. Please turn in this sheet with your rough draft and your research notebook. Your final research paper, display board and in-class presentation will count as ***2 test/assessment grades*** for the second quarter when it is due on Tuesday, November 12th.

Science Fair Research Paper Rough Draft Check Sheet

**\_\_\_\_\_\_Formal style**

***Notes to Mrs. Croghan about your paper…***

* All papers should be written using a formal style. There should be appropriate grammar, spelling, sentence structure and paragraph organization. There should not be any slang or “texting” abbreviations.
* You may use the first person in your paper except in the background section which must be in the third person with sources cited. It is preferable for the entire research paper to be in the third person, but it is not required this year.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_Title Page**

* The title page includes the project title, my name, and my grade

\_\_\_\_\_\_**Abstract**

* Abstract is less than 250 words.
* The abstract should be on its own sheet of paper.
* The abstract is a summary of your entire project – what did you do, why did you do it, what did you find out, how do you know and why is it important? (see science fair packet 4 for more information)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_Table of Contents**

* The table of contents shows descriptions of important parts of the paper and the pages where they are located.
* The table of contents can be in any format, but it needs to be clear and detailed

**\_\_\_\_\_\_Purpose**

* The purpose of the experiment is clear.
* The reason behind the choice of study is explained.

\_\_\_\_\_\_**Background**

## The background research is at least 2 pages long.

* The background research provides important scientific information that someone needs to understand your project.
* The information is cited (shows the source of the information with in-text citations)
* See more information about the background in science fair packet 3)

\_\_\_\_\_\_**Variables**

***Notes to Mrs. Croghan about your paper…***

* Your independent variable(s), dependent variable(s) and constants should be described or listed in this section. In addition, if you have one of your groups acting as the control group, it should be described here as well.

\_\_\_\_\_**Hypothesis**

* In addition to the expected result of your experiment, you should explain the reason(s) why this is expected based on your background research or experience.
* You can use the “If..then…because” format, but you do not have to.

### \_\_\_\_\_Materials & Procedure

* A detailed list of all materials used for the project should be listed. (A bulleted list can be clear and easy to read.)
* Your detailed procedure should be numbered and include everything that was completed and how your data were obtained and analyzed.
* The number of trials should be clear in your procedure.
* You are encouraged to include pictures, drawings and diagrams of your experiment and set-up to help explain what was completed.

**\_\_\_\_\_Results**

* The data that was collected is summarized in tables. The tables should have titles and be labeled appropriately. Units should be used when applicable.
* Graphs should be appropriate, labeled and clear.
* Include any statistical information or calculations – including the calculation of the means or averages (if applicable)

**\_\_\_\_\_Discussion**

* The discussion should flow smoothly and logically from the data. You can refer to figures and graphs in your results section. This should be
* Here is where you should summarize and explain what the tables and graphs are showing. What are the overall trends? (See your science fair packets for more specifics.)
* Include any errors or problems that may have occurred and discuss any measurements that seem far away from the majority of the measurements (these are called outliers.)

**\_\_\_\_\_Conclusion**

* The conclusion should be more than a paragraph long.
* The conclusion addresses the hypothesis of the experiment without using “dead words”. Did your results support the hypothesis? Did the results fail to support the hypothesis?
* The conclusion is well-written and complete. You can see the sample paper for ideas of things you may want to write about. You can also look at Science Fair packet 4.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_Acknowledgements/Credits**

* Have you thanked the people who assisted you: Mentors, parents, teachers, participants in your study & others

### \_\_\_\_\_\_Reference List

***Notes to Mrs. Croghan about your paper…***

* References should include any information that is not your own
* Alphabetical order and in APA format
* There is a minimum of 5 references required for just the research plan, so you should have more than that for your entire paper.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Appendix (not everyone has an added appendix)**

* Appendix –Additional tables/graphs, copies of

surveys/tests, & diagrams of specialized equipment.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_Your paper uses proper formatting, has been edited it for grammar,**

 **spelling, and meaning.**

* Entire paper is double-spaced, No more than 1 inch (regular) margins
* 12 point font - Times New Roman/Arial or something similar
* Citations – direct quotes & paraphrasing(author, year, page #)

\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Peer editing and suggestions**

* In class this week, you should have a classmate of your choice read parts of your paper or even your entire paper and give you feedback, questions and suggestions.
* Please turn in their suggestion sheet with your rough draft.

# **\_\_\_\_\_Research notebook:**

* Accurate & detailed notes of everything done for project
* All entries are dated
* Pages numbered
* Written in ink and in cursive
* Bound notebook – stitched or glued
* Index in back of the notebook shows the location of important information
* Notes on contact people, readings & reference information (or if you have note cards in 6th grade, you can put an envelope with your cards in it.)
* Includes your research plan, background information, thoughts on the experiment progress, problems & changes
* Raw data & thoughts on results as your experiment or investigation progresses

**Peer editing: (Classwork grade)**

**I read and helped to edit the following students’ papers this week in class:**

**I had the following students edit or review my paper in class this week:**