**Science Fair Paper Guidelines**

**Introduction:**

1. Start with an attention grabber. (This might be a quote, question, or little known factoid. Maybe you mention a current event or debate that’s affected by your topic.)
2. Transition to your actual experiment topic and explain why this research you’re about to present is actually relevant and helpful to understanding the experiment’s results, or at least to your hypothesis about what those results will be.
3. Discuss the significance of your study. Why is this topic you’ve researched actually important to science and/or the world? What would the lay person know about it that would make it matter to him?
4. Acquaint your audience with the major topics of your paper in the order they will appear**.** This previewing lets the reader know what to expect.

**Body**

1. Topic 1
   1. Detail 1
   2. Example
   3. Details 2
   4. Example
2. Topic 2
   1. Detail 1
   2. Example
   3. Details 2
   4. Example
3. Topic 3
   1. Detail 1
   2. Example
   3. Details 2
   4. Example
4. And so on…

*In-text citations should come after every piece of information you present that comes from a different source. So, you will probably have at least two in-text citations per paragraph, perhaps more. You MUST offer a citation at the end of every paragraph, even if it’s just “ibid,” which means that you’re referring to the previous source. Well-known pieces of information (aka, the earth revolves around the sun) do not need a citation.*

**Conclusion**

1. Review the major topics explored in your research.
2. Tie it back to your experiment. Why is this helpful in understanding the elements of your experiment?
3. So what? This is your chance to talk about why the layperson should care. What is being done in the world, politically or in other current events, that makes this topic relevant? What role does your experiment play in understanding this larger topic? Essentially, your job is to make us care.