



**March 7, 2025**

## Project Materials Guidelines

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In addition to required ISEF Forms (grades 6-12), **ALL students will be required to submit the following as part of the online registration:**

1. Abstract
2. Project Board Image

### DEADLINES

**February 11, 2025** ~ Student **ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE** on [zFairs](#)

- ALL required ISEF Forms (includes Research Plan as part of Form 1B)
- Abstract
- PDF or clear photo/image of the project board
- Registration Fee - \$30/student

**March 4, 2025**

**Deadline to respond to comments or requirements from the Scientific Review Committee.**

Deadline for parent or guardian signature on student's OSU Media/Photo and Hold Harmless waiver (sent to parent or guardian via email).

### Project Board (required)

**Students will need BOTH a physical display board to present during in-person judging interviews AND a project board image.** Project board images/files will be previewed by judges ahead of judging day which is very helpful for the judges and facilitates a more productive interview.

### PHYSICAL PROJECT BOARD

The Physical Project Board is often created using a typical tri-fold board system with contents attached to the board, or a board designed in PowerPoint and then printed in large format is also common. Physical project boards are displayed for judging and the Open House period.

**Important** - Regardless of format used to create it, the physical project board must meet display requirements. See last two pages of this document for the Display & Safety Checklist which further details the guidelines and requirements for the board and what is/is not allowed on the display.

The board must be no more than 30" deep; 48" wide; 108" from the floor to the top of project.

For any prohibited items listed on the Display & Safety Checklist, we recommend documenting them with appropriate photos and/or videos that can be displayed and shown to the judges instead.

**Project Boards should include the following sections (at a minimum):**

- Header with project title and student name(s).
  - NO OTHER personal info on board (i.e. school name, grade, etc.)
- Project Summary
- Rationale, Question/Purpose
- Hypothesis
- Materials and Methods
- Data (Graphs, Tables, Figures)
- Results
- Conclusions

Students may add additional sections as necessary to adequately explain their work.

**Style and content guidelines for project boards:**

- All photos, graphs, charts, drawings, cartoons, graphics, clip-art etc. must be properly cited.
- If any images are generated or created by student, then one statement on the board saying "All images/graphics created by student" is acceptable
- If any images or graphics are created by someone else (including AI), must properly cite source.

**PROJECT BOARD IMAGE**

ALL students will be **REQUIRED** to upload a PDF or photograph of the student's physical display board during OSSEF registration

Upload the image as a PDF or image file to zFairs under the file type "Project Board Image" during registration.

# Abstract (required)

Students will be **REQUIRED** to **COPY** and **PASTE** their **Abstract** into the registration form.

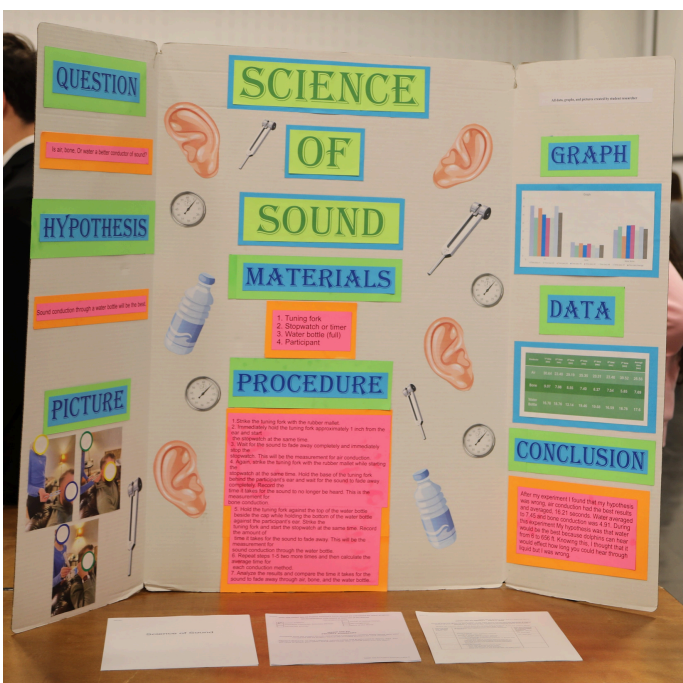
The Abstract pasted into the registration form should adhere to the following:

- NO MORE than 250 words. Must be written in the student's own words.
- Summary of the project that includes a brief discussion of the question/rationale, hypothesis, methods, and results.
- Should NOT include student names or project title.
- Should not be divided into sections. An abstract should be written in paragraph form using complete but concise sentences
- Is written in 3rd person view

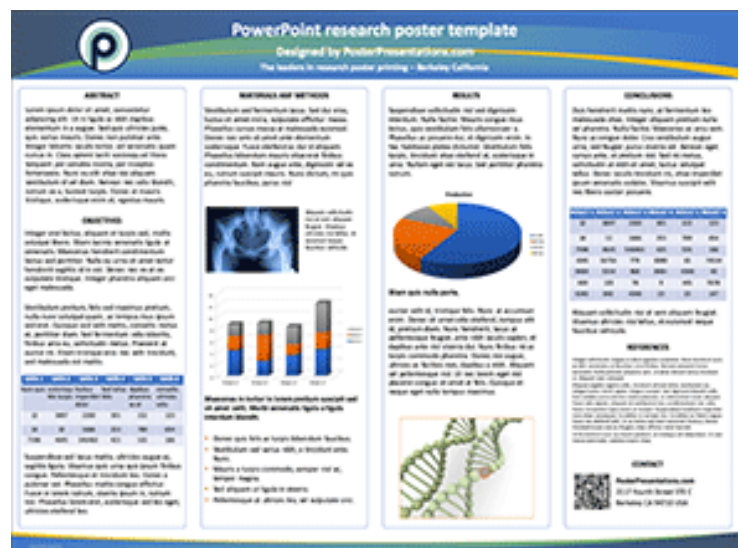
### Tips on writing an abstract:

- Write a sentence making broad statements about the topic of research
- Write the next sentence or two focusing more narrowly on the particular intent of the research.
- Write several sentences indicating the problem to be solved and the hypothesis that was posed.
- Write a very brief statement to describe the methodology employed
- Write several concise statements indicating which variables were explored and compared and if the data obtained supported the hypothesis. These sentences summarize the results and discussion sections of the research paper.
- Write a sentence that gives the conclusion(s) of the research work and a statement of the direction for future research.
- Check to see if the number of words fit within the required abstract word count and spelling AND grammar are reviewed.

## Examples - Project Board Images



**Allowed:** Photograph of physical display board



**Allowed:** PDF of computer-generated (often PowerPoint) poster or display.