Science Fair 2017-2018

Picking a good topic is the most important part.

You need a topic that you can really be interested in. You need something to actually test. Think about the scientific method. You need an independent variable- something you do different between groups and a dependent variable- something you are measuring. You need a control group- a group to compare to (receiving no treatment or getting the most normal thing).

*Sciencebuddies.org* is a great place to start if you have no ideas. It starts you off with a wizard that asks you about your timeframe, your likes and dislikes, and tries to match you to some categories. These will be your basic projects that have been done many times before. Basic is okay, especially if you have never done a science fair project but if you want to win at the district or state level you will have to think a little more outside the box.

Try to stay away from humans and animals with backbones. They require a whole lot more work. We have to get special permission and forms signed from doctors to approve your project and you will need someone with a doctorate degree to oversee your research. The teachers here are not allowed to oversee your research. If you are dead set on one of these areas see me and we will talk.

You can google *GSEF Project Categories and Subcategories* and this will give you a list and description of all of the categories that you can compete in. We had very few students compete in mathematics, robotics, systems software, embedded systems, or materials science last year at the district. These would be easier to place in then something very popular like chemistry.

Do a little research on topics. Write down 5 topics that interest you and then maybe your parents can look at them with you. Narrow it down to 3 then ask me about them. By Monday, September 11th, your proposal forms are due. Be sure to write down your ideas and any research in your log books. You need to leave the first two pages of your log book blank. We will be in the computer lab on September 6th for you to research ideas.



**Online Resources**

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| **Georgia Science and Engineering Fair** | <http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/ppd/courses/academic-special-programs/georgia-science-and-engineering-fair> |
| **International Science and Engineering Fair**(Rules and Guidelines) | <https://student.societyforscience.org/international-rules-pre-college-science-research> |
| **Rules/Forms Wizard**(guide for forms needed) | <https://apps2.societyforscience.org/wizard/index.asp>  |
| **Science Buddies- Topic Wizard** | <https://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/topic-selection-wizard/background-info>  |