

# TRIBOARD DISPLAY

*A stunning and scientifically sound project needs to be supported by a compelling project display board.*

The display board is the first impression of your project that attendees will see. It is the chance they get to understand what question you asked, what hypothesis you proposed, and how things turned out. If they're captured by the combination of the board and the science it conveys, they might stop to ask questions, learn more, and further evaluate what you've done. They might notice you and your project. If the board lacks the design savvy necessary to garner that attention, you may find that you've lost out simply because you didn't do the project and its results *visual justice*.

**A poor board can spell disaster.** The whole point of a display board is to showcase your project. "The goal is to communicate clearly, efficiently, and precisely what you wanted to investigate, how you investigated it, what your results were, and your interpretation of those results. You can have the cleverest, interesting, and important research, but if you fail to communicate that because your board is incomplete, poorly organized, or hard to read, then you won't walk away with the first place prize."

Science Buddies has a full section of Project Display Board resources, suggestions, tips, tricks, and examples.

- **Plan your board.** Take time to mock up or "storyboard" your Project Display board on a sheet of paper before you start printing or gluing *anything* in place. This will help you best determine how to use your available space and how to size the elements you plan to include. Make a list of elements you need to type up, or photos you need to print.
- **Know the size limitations.** Most project display boards, are 36" x 48". You can add a title topper if you want because it will fit within the size limits.  
Maximum Size limitations are:

Depth (front to back)	30 inches
Width (side to side)	48 inches
Height (tabletop to top)	72 inches
- **Choose the right title.** Your title should be accurate for your project but should be catchy enough, or interesting enough, to make a viewer curious. TIP: spend time brainstorming for the best title for your project. Come up with a list of possibilities before you decide.
- **Tell the whole story.** Your board should contain all of the information required for a viewer to understand your project from start to finish. Our handy Project Display Checklist can help you keep track of what information should be on your board. **Tip:** print out a copy and check off each element as you put it in place.
- **Make effective use of headlines and subheads.** After a minute of looking at the board, the viewer should know what question you were researching, what you expected to happen, and how things turned out. In a short amount of time, the viewer will gather most of that information from headlines, photos, charts, and captions. The rest of the story is there, but pay attention to what someone can read by first reading all the headlines or subheads.
- **Know your font sizes.** A project display board headline needs to be read almost across the room. Other elements of the board should be clearly readable at arm's length or even by someone walking by. Use your sizes consistently to help guide viewers through the material. A board that is easy to read—both in terms of color balance and font selection—can immediately earn attention points.

ITEM	FONT SIZE	COMMENTS
Title-	150+	Make it visible from across a room
Headings	32+	Should be easily readable from 5 feet away
Subheadings	20+	Smaller than headings but more noticeable than the main text
Main Body	16-18	This is a comfortable text size for someone who comes closer to read
Captions	12-16	It's OK to make these a bit smaller than the body text.

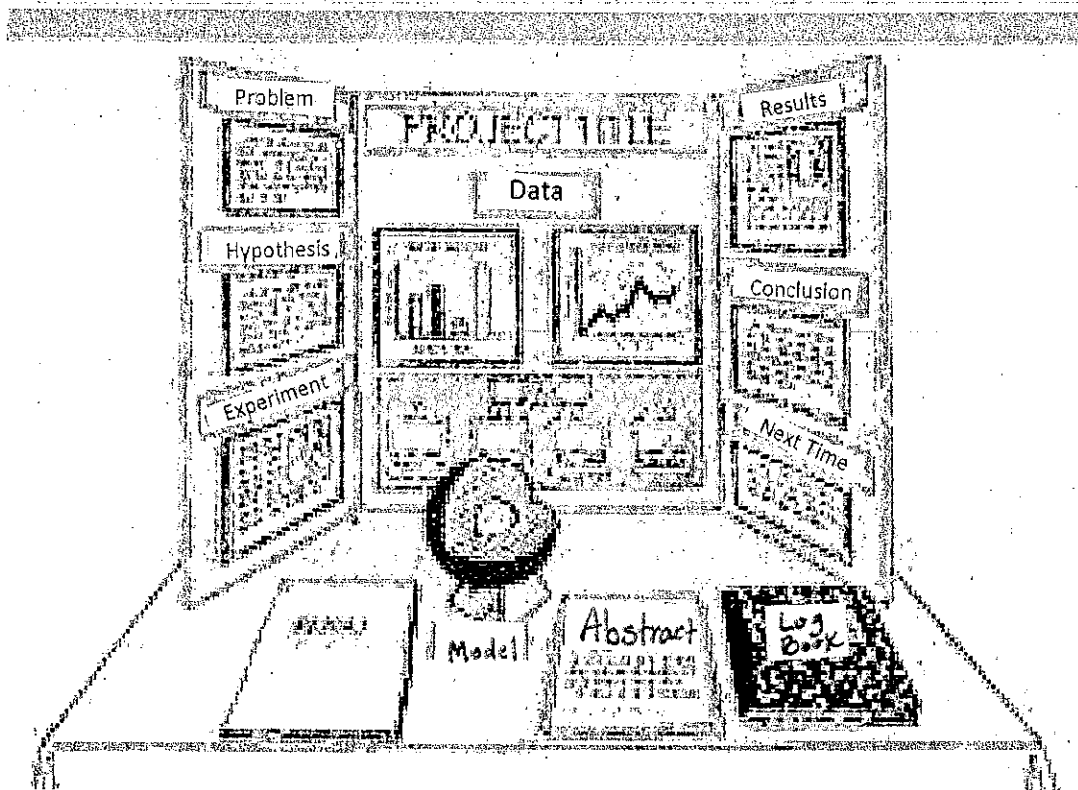
**If you are buying stick on letters, glue on letters, or stencils- You will need at least 2 inch letters for titles and 1 inch letters for headings.**

- **Remember the power of pictures.** Photos and diagrams can quickly and efficiently convey information to a viewer—plus, they'll liven up your board! Just be sure to use relevant captions or subheads to further explain a photo's contents. And, don't put text *on top* of photos. It's hard to read! **Tip:** You want your board to be balanced.

Use enough visual elements to help support and convey your information, but be careful not to make the board too cluttered.

**\*You must cite the source of every photo, graph, table, chart, or other images including those that you make.** The citation must state who created the graph/table/chart or who took the picture. For example: "All photographs by Lindsey Woods," or "Image from [www.wherever.com](http://www.wherever.com)." Put the info right by the item.

- **Use quality materials.** From self-standing display boards to heavier papers and quality adhesives, gathering your materials before you start can make the project display board process a smoother experience. Don't hand-write elements for your display board. Do not just glue white printer paper to a white triboard. Use backgrounds around headings papers. You can add a border if you want.
- **Don't wait until the last minute.** Creating a good project display board takes time. Not only do you need to map out how you want your information to appear, but you'll need to create your diagrams, charts, images, and text blocks and print them out (in the right sizes) to assemble on your board. Planning ahead is really important.



Problem	Title	Results
Hypothesis	Data	Conclusion
Experiment- Variables/Materials/Procedures (you may have to shorten this or be creative)		Next Time