Display Guidelines <u>Simplified</u> & Sample Display Board Photos for SEFMD

(adapted from ACSEF)

Science Project vs Engineering Project Display
Watch the two videos produced by the ACSEF judging coordinator:
<u>Video 1</u>
<u>Video 2</u>

Typical Science Project Display Layout Note: <u>Use of more bullet points instead of paragraphs.</u>
<u>Graphs should have descriptive titles and appropriately labeled x-axis and y-axis</u>

Below are a couple of very typical display set ups.

Typical Engineering Project Display Layout.

EXHIBIT SIZE

- **Depth (front to back): 30 inches or 76 centimeters maximum**
- **Width (side to side): 48 inches or 122 centimeters maximum**
- **Height (floor to top): 108 inches or 274 centimeters maximum**
- WARNING - Recommended: Display boards of 3-4 ft height (91.4 cm - 121.92 cm) **vs** 5 ft (152.4 cm) **are recommended for readability by the judges The display table height is already 3 feet so if you have a 5 foot tall display board sitting on the table --- do the math that is asking a judge to read something 8 feet high!**
- **Floor displays (placing the display board onto the floor) are allowed only if the project height exceeds 108" while on a table.**
- Display materials must fit on the table in front of your board. .

TEXT

- **Section titles** should be easily read from 10' away.
- Use size 24-point for the body of text.
- Position your main points at eye level
- Use more graphics than words
- Use bullet points instead of paragraphs whenever possible. *Judges have limited time to read your work.

NAMES

- Student name(s) should not appear on the abstracts (use project ID provided by SEFMD + Title of project only).
- Names should not appear on the front of the display board; they can be printed on a label to place onto the backside of the poster.
- Names should not appear on the logbook or other items displayed. Use blue tape to cover names on the logbook, research report, binders etc.

REFERENCES

- References (**top 5 only**) (Bibliography) should be on the display board. (Include URL or other source of any visuals if **not** created by the student).*additional references should appear in the project report or log book.
- If student generated graphics including photos are on the display a single notation anywhere logically on the display board must state "Photographs created by student researcher".
- If select photos are not generated by student then each should be numbered and have the URL or other source next to the photo.
- If the bibliography is very long, include "Selected References" on the board and have available copies of the complete list in your project report binder or can be placed at the end of your logbook (data notebook).

ABSTRACT & NOTEBOOK

- Display your abstract and original data notebook/logbook (kept during your work) with your project...**.**

FORMS

- You MUST display Forms 1C (project performed at a college or professional lab) and 7 (project is a continuation of a previous year's research) if your project requires them. SEFMD will let you know if required.
- No other forms should be at your display for judging (Forms may need to be inspected during project setup the day before) .

NOT ALLOWED AS PART OF THE DISPLAY

X Research Institution logos
X School names or logos
X Formal *Project Summaries* for distribution (only Abstracts may be distributed)
X PowerPoint® presentations or digital equivalents on a laptop (other than demos or videos of data that cannot be displayed in any other way)
X Acknowledgements (names of mentors, university labs, etc.)
X Awards, medals, business cards, flags, endorsements or acknowledgements from previous fairs.

X Photographs of people other than student presenter(s) unless signed Form 4 is available.
X Photographs or other visual presentations depicting vertebrate animals in surgical techniques, dissections, necropsies, other lab techniques, improper handling methods, improper housing conditions, procedures, etc.

Use photos or drawings instead of the following disallowed physical objects: NOT ALLOWED

X All liquids, including water
X Human or animal food (e.g., popcorn, M&Ms, etc.)
X Living or dead organisms (including plants, fungi, and bacteria)
X Soil or waste samples, toxic waste samples
X Dried plant materials
X Taxidermy specimens or parts
X Preserved vertebrate or invertebrate animals or their parts
X Human/animal parts or body fluids (blood, urine)
X Laboratory/household chemicals
X Batteries with open-top cells
X Poisons, drugs, controlled substances, hazardous substances or devices (for example: firearms, weapons, ammunition, reloading devices, model rockets)
X Dry ice or other sublimating solids (solids which vaporize to a gas without passing through a liquid phase)
X Sharp items (for example: syringes, needles, pipettes, knives)
X Any flames, open or concealed, or highly flammable materials
X Gases or empty tanks that previously contained combustible liquids or gases, including butane and propane

Loss or Damage

- The Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to any project or project displayed items.
- Valuable items should be simulated or removed when the student is not present at his/her project.

PHOTO GALLERY EXAMPLES OF DISPLAY BOARDS
A display should ideally read like a book from left to right. Placing information in logical sequence as the event occurred.
**Notice our standard science and engineering layouts at the beginning of this document.**
What follows are photos of displays and annotations of the Pro and Con and suggestions for improvement for each.
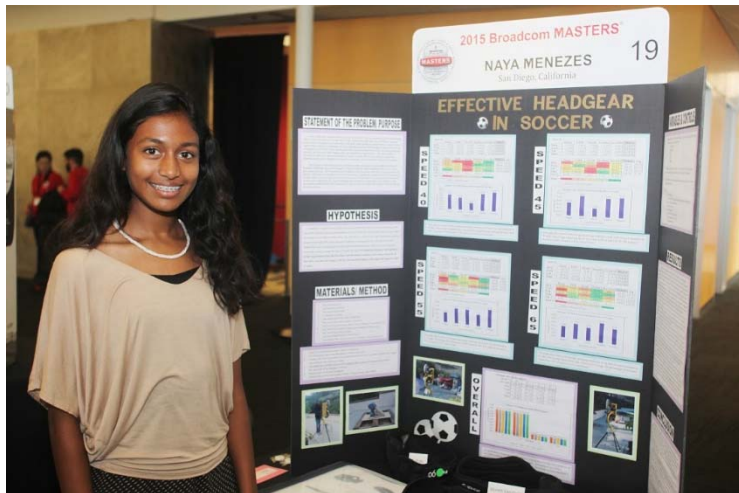
This was a science project. The student compared various types of headgear used by soccer players. GOOD: GRAPHS ARE EXCELLENT.

COULD IMPROVE: Too many words!!! Use an intro sentence or two then make your other evidence, fact or situations using bullet points Label photos identifying what the photo shows. Also somewhere on the display student REQUIRED to have a statement "All photos taken by student researcher"
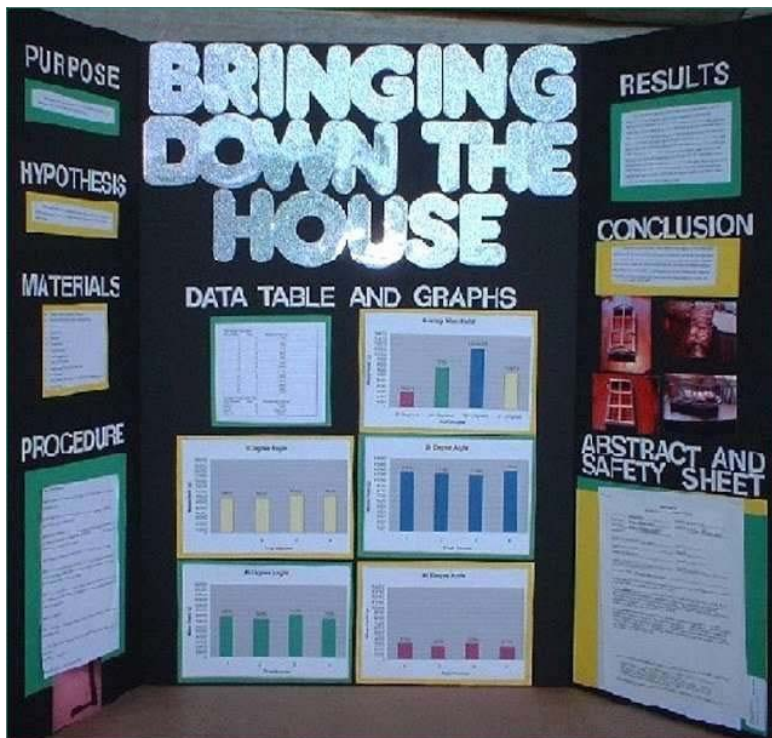
This was a science project. Good: Graphs. Could improve like the one above using fewer words and more bullet points. Also the Data table appears to be small. Always use a ruler when laying out your design. Missing identifying labels for the photos and they should be placed BEFORE the results and conclusion Missing bibliography **Also - The abstract and safety sheet do not go onto the display board!!!**
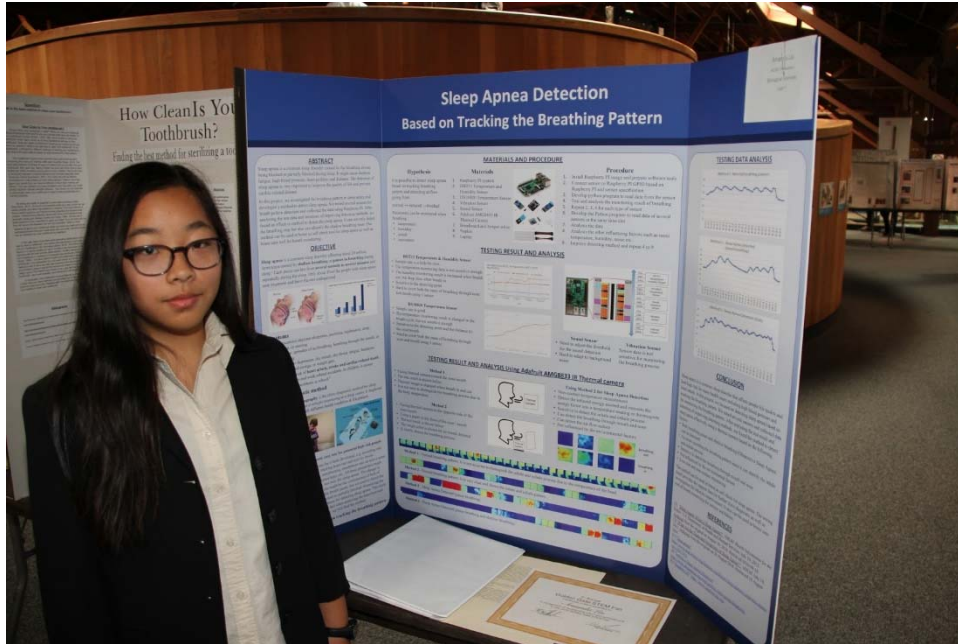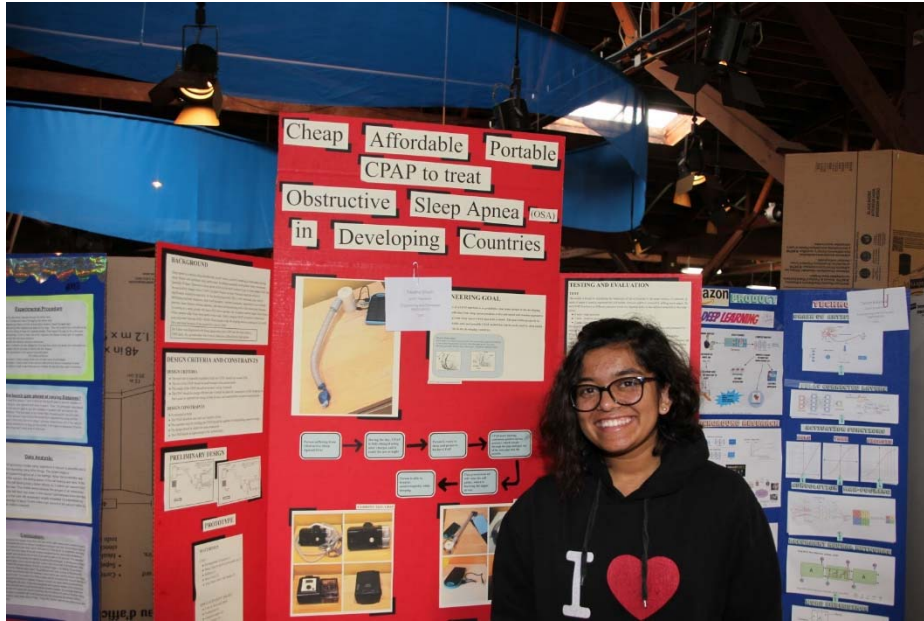
Engineering Project: Good use of illustrations and graphs. Needs improvement: Abstract should not be on the display board. I don't see labels identifying the diagrams and source (if student designed all diagrams then ONE statement anywhere on the display board stating "all graphics designed by student researcher" is needed. If the diagrams were sourced from the internet then the URL for each needs to be beneath the appropriate diagram. AND again tooooooo many words…
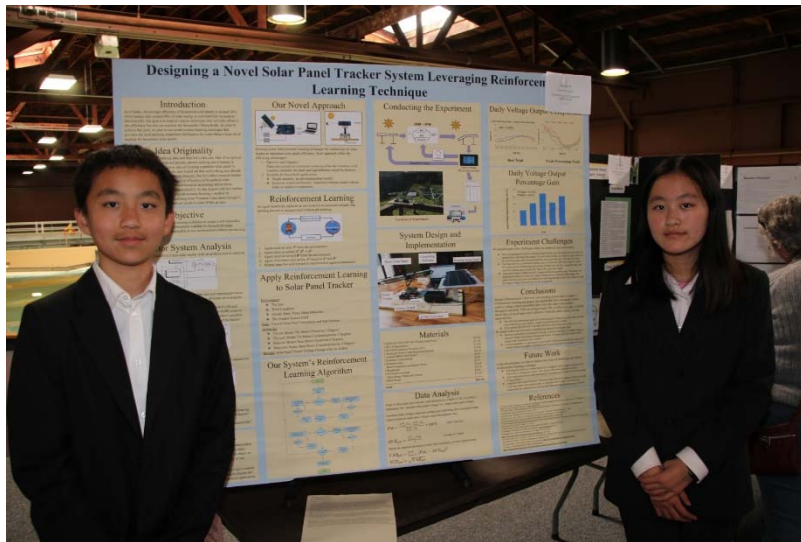
Engineering Project: This is an example of students having their project display board created at a copy center such as Kinkos. They provided the pdf and allowed dimensions to the copy center then it was printed. They have included additional components to the display that are not typical of engineering displays but they did so to make it work for their particular project so it is fine! They are lacking the source of the photos and diagram labels.

Engineering Project:
Good use of illustrations and graphs. The title could have been more impressive if a ruler had been used to align the words or better yet type the title and make as few cuts as possible. I like the schematic with the arrows describing the transition of design. Needs improvement: I don't see labels identifying the diagrams and source (if student designed all diagrams then ONE statement anywhere on the display board stating "all graphics designed by student researcher" is needed. If the diagrams were sourced from the internet then the URL for each needs to be beneath the appropriate diagram.

Below are links to typical International Science Fair Display boards. If a project moves on to the international science fairs ACSEF holds tutorial sessions with each student to re-design the display board if needed.

1. **ISEF Finalist Team of 3 - Performed at home**
   https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QTxozi3Muva96Xs0ka3iYpEX5STe5mLK/view?usp=sharing
2. **ISEF Finalist Team of 3 - Performed at an RRI**
   https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_XI9nTpi85GdGtfMllEQlFGNlRNdG9nazdEaTVUUXpqZjE4/view?usp=sharing
3. **ISEF Finalist Individual project - performed at an RRI**
   https://drive.google.com/file/d/11P7v_J-bcPN1ecYrr-goFh6QNtMVo5MF/view?usp=sharing
4. **ISEF Finalist Individual project - performed at home**
   https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OyxO9n8fvhO3k5LTWWR6nHhcPcyX9I4b/view?usp=sharing
5. **ISEF Finalist Individual project - performed at RRI**
   https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gLz41v_8qjraOlkhWXtpguj46mNUIa5V/view?usp=sharing