Science Fair Proposal Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**This year in Pre-AP Biology, you will participate in the 2016-2017 James Bowie High School Science Fair. Soon, you will have to choose a topic. This is to help you do that. First, some basics:**

**First 6 Weeks: You will choose a topic (!), research that topic by finding scientific articles written about your topic, and write a research paper that introduces your science fair project through your background research. You will begin learning about how to write a lab report. You will also write a plan to organize your experiment and begin conducting your experiment.**

**Second 6 Weeks: You will conduct your experiment, making sure to document all data and observations, as well as taking any necessary pictures or videos that will eventually allow you to illustrate your experiment. You will compile and analyze your data and create tables and graphs that organize and represent your data and results. You will also begin thinking how to exhibit and explain your experiment.**

**Third 6 Weeks: You will draw conclusions from your data, learn how to write a lab report and write your final lab report for your experiment.**

**Christmas Break: You will begin to create a trifold display for your science fair project.**

**Fourth Six Weeks: You will finish creating a trifold display for your science fair project and participate in a classroom mock science fair as well as the Bowie Science Fair. Those projects that place in the Bowie Science Fair will move on to the 2017 Austin Energy Region Science Festival and could potentially even move on to the State Competition. Advancing to any level beyond the mock classroom/Bowie Science Fair is not necessary, but extra credit will be given to those who do so (only as an incentive for you to put some effort into your project) and it looks VERY good on college applications. You will also learn how to write an abstract, and then write an abstract yourself.**

**Notes on science fair topics:**

* **You have to pick a topic that you can create an experiment out of, an experiment that you will plan, organize, and conduct on your own. This experiment must try to answer a question that you have about a specific scientific field.**
* **This experiment MUST BE DOABLE. This experiment must provide NEW information to the scientific community.**
* **This experiment has to be one in which you can observe a change and collect data from (by data, I mean numbers!) You must be able to easily graph this data.**
* **You cannot do harm to yourself, to other people, or to any vertebrate creature.**
* **Some human experiments may require a physician’s approval.**
* **If you use a vertebrate animal, you must get a veterinarian’s permission that your experiment is not harmful to the animal.**
* **Plants are difficult to grow and take a lot of time. If you want to use plants, your topic should be very original and you must start your growth as soon as possible.**
* **Any project that uses surveys to collect data also should be very original and shouldn’t be based on people’s opinions.**
* **Your sample size of the subjects you are testing should be relatively large to get adequate data.**
* **Try to avoid consumer reports, meaning try to avoid testing the usefulness of a product or products.**
* **Any microbiology project must be safe and you must meet with Mrs. Kowalik to go over your idea.**
* **Please don’t take a topic from the first sites that come up when you google: high school science project. I mean, really, just don’t please.**

**Now that that’s out of the way, let’s try to figure out what you CAN and SHOULD do for the science fair.**

**What are your everyday interests?** In the box below, write any clubs/teams/activities that you participate in or may want to in the future. Write any hobbies/pastimes/school-appropriate guilty pleasures that you have or find interesting.

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**What are your scientific interests?** Highlight any of the sciences below that you find interesting in the same color. Then, re-highlight the three you find most interesting in a different color. CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITIES WITHIN EACH ONE. **Note, this only includes life sciences.**  **A full list of categories (including chemistry, physics, robotics, etc.) is attached.** Feel free to highlight and choose from this list as well as the one below.

* [**Agriculture**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture) – study of producing crops and raising livestock, with an emphasis on practical applications
* [**Anatomy**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anatomy) – study of form and function, in plants, animals, and other organisms, or specifically in humans
* [**Biochemistry**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biochemistry) – study of the chemical reactions required for life to exist and function, usually a focus on the cellular level
* [**Bioengineering**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bioengineering) – study of biology through the means of engineering with an emphasis on applied knowledge and especially related to biotechnology
* [**Biomechanics**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biomechanics) – often considered a branch of medicine, the study of the mechanics of living beings, with an emphasis on applied use through [prosthetics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prosthetics) or [orthotics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthotics)
* [**Biomedical research**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biomedical_research) – study of health and disease
* [**Biotechnology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biotechnology) – study of the manipulation of living matter, including genetic modification and [synthetic biology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synthetic_biology)
* [**Botany**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botany)– study of plants
* [**Cell biology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cell_biology) – study of the cell as a complete unit, and the molecular and chemical interactions that occur within a living cell
* [**Developmental biology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developmental_biology) – study of the processes through which an organism forms, from zygote to full structure
* [**Ecology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecology) – study of the interactions of living organisms with one another and with the non-living elements of their environment
* [**Epidemiology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epidemiology) – a major component of public health research, studying factors affecting the health of populations
* [**Evolutionary biology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evolutionary_biology) – study of the origin and descent of species over time
* [**Genetics**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetics) – study of genes and heredity.
* [**Marine biology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_biology) – study of ocean ecosystems, plants, animals, and other living beings
* [**Microbiology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microbiology) – study of microscopic organisms (microorganisms) and their interactions with other living organisms
* [**Molecular biology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molecular_biology) – study of biology and biological functions at the molecular level, some cross over with biochemistry
* [**Mycology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mycology) – study of fungi
* [**Neurobiology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neurobiology)– study of the nervous system, including anatomy, physiology and pathology
* [**Pathology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pathology) – study of diseases, and the causes, processes, nature, and development of disease
* [**Physiology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physiology) – study of the functioning of living organisms and the organs and parts of living organisms
* [**Population biology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population_biology) – study of groups of conspecific organisms
* [**Sociobiology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociobiology) – study of the biological bases of [sociology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociology)
* [**Toxicology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toxicology) - study of the effects of chemicals on living organisms
* [**Zoology**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoology) – study of animals, including classification, physiology, development, and behavior.

My three choices: (NOT SET IN STONE)

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**Research.** Using a computer, textbooks, the knowledge of a known professional in the field, or your teacher, research/inquire/ponder/delve into the three sciences you chose. Read some background knowledge and familiarize yourself with the basics of the science. Then, find a more specific topic that interests you for each of the three sciences (Think of something more specific within the sciences you chose. Integrate your everyday interests into your research and inquiry. USE YOUR INTERESTS TO GUIDE YOUR RESEARCH. IF YOU DON’T HAVE ANY INTERESTS THAT JUMP OUT AT YOU, LET YOUR IMAGINATION GUIDE YOU.)

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| Science | Specific Topic Within the Science |
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**Question.**  Using your new knowledge of the specific topics above, come up with a question you have about the topic. When developing these questions, try to think of something that would benefit humanity if it were answered. You’re not trying to save the world, any NEW knowledge is a benefit in and of itself. KEEP IN MIND that you will eventually be conducting an experiment in which you collect data to answer the question.

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| Specific Topic | Question that Benefits Humanity |
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**Hypothesis.** For each question, create a hypothesis using an If… then… sentence that gives an educated answer to your question. KEEP IN MIND that you will be comparing your results to your hypothesis and drawing conclusions from your data that show whether your hypothesis was right or wrong.

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| Question | Hypothesis |
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Think about which of these hypotheses would make the best science fair experiment. Highlight this hypothesis.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Science Fair Proposal Form

Scientific Field: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Question: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Some background research: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Benefit to the scientific community: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Hypothesis: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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3. Independent Variable (the one variable you are testing) is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. unit of measurement for IV is (example: sec, cm, mL, etc.) is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. instrument/tool used for measuring the IV is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Dependent Variable (what you are measuring to see effect of experiment) is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. unit of measurement for DV is (example: sec, cm, mL, etc.) is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. instrument/tool used for measuring the DV is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. List all factors that must remain constant and explain how you will keep them constant.

Factors How factors are kept constant

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6. Describe the control group \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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7. If you are using living organisms (plants, animals, microorganisms), list their scientific names.

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8. If you select a topic using human subjects, vertebrate animals, or microorganisms you most likely will have to consult with an expert in the field of study. The expert must have a PhD or Medical degree. It will be your responsibility to locate this person for advice and possible supervision of your project. Please provide the name and contact information (phone/email) of this expert or select another idea.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rough plan for how to conduct the experiment/ Procedure: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Potential ways the experiment could go wrong/ Ideas for how to prevent this: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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***Proposal Approval*** *(to be completed by your teacher)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Proposal approved.

\_\_\_\_\_ Proposal requires revision.

\_\_\_\_\_ Proposal is unacceptable. Resubmit a new idea.