



## Steps to a Successful Science Project Following The Scientific Method



1. Select your **topic**: Pick a topic or problem that interests you and allows for experimentation. Your project should be testable.
2. Develop your **problem**: Decide exactly what you want to find out or show. Your problem should be in the form of a question that can be tested. Your project is to try to answer that question.
3. Start your **research**: Go to the library to get some books about your topic; search the internet; find out as much as you can about your topic that will aid you in forming a hypothesis.
4. State your **hypothesis**: Tell what you think will happen **and why**. A hypothesis is your tentative explanation about WHY something happened. It requires experiments to see if it is valid. It is not just a prediction of what will happen. Usually stated as “If I (do this), then (this will happen), because...”
5. Gather your **materials**: Get all the things you need to conduct your experiments.
6. **Test** your hypothesis and **collect your data**. Start experimenting. Remember to **do your experiment at least three times for validity**. If you only do your experiment once your data might not be accurate to make a correct conclusion.
7. **Organize** your results: Keep a record of the data you collect. (Daily notes are recommended.)
8. Record your **results**. Results tell only what happened.
9. Your **conclusion** will tell what you found out by doing your project and states whether your hypothesis was correct or incorrect.
10. **Construct** your project/exhibit: Decide how you are going to display your experiment. You can use a science board, boxes, containers or whatever fits your experiment. You should include the following: your name(s), title of your project, question/problem, hypothesis, the materials used, procedures, data collected, results, and conclusion.