

## Steps to Completing Your Social Studies Fair Project

1. Brainstorm and choose a topic.
2. Write your statement of purpose.
3. Select resource materials.
4. Prepare your outline.
5. Complete your research, take notes, and write bibliography cards.
6. Write your 1<sup>st</sup> draft.
7. Revise, edit, and proofread the 1<sup>st</sup> draft.
8. Prepare the bibliography.
9. Write your final copy and abstract.
10. Sketch a preliminary design for the backboard.
11. Assemble your backboard.

## Examples of Topics for Project Ideas

<p><b><u>Anthropology</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to Dress? Changing Rights and Responsibilities of Muslim Women.</li> <li>- Who Are the Aborigine of Australia and How Has Their Culture Survived?</li> <li>- Who Were the Earliest Citizens of Georgia?</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Economics</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How Does Advertising Affect the Spending Habits of Fifth Grade Students at Our School?</li> <li>- How Do You Finance a War?</li> <li>- What Would Be the Economic Impact of Prohibition of the Sale of Cigarettes?</li> <li>- What Are We Going to Do When the Gas Runs Out?</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Geography</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who Are the Palestinians?</li> <li>- What Do You Know About Liberia?</li> <li>- What Happens to the Town When the Factory Closes?</li> <li>- What Does Drought Mean to the State of Georgia?</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>History</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our Georgia Flag: How Did It Evolve?</li> <li>- How Did Jackie Robinson Change Baseball?</li> <li>- What Effect Does a Father Have on the Making of a World Leader?</li> <li>- U.S. Involvement in Vietnam: Was It Worth It?</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Political Science</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is America the World Policeman?</li> <li>- Voter Apathy: How Does It Affect Election Results?</li> <li>- How Did Bloody Sunday Impact the Civil Rights Movement?</li> <li>- What Is the Electoral College and How Does It Work?</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Sociology</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Right To Die: Whose Choice Is It?</li> <li>- How Does Divorce Affect Children?</li> <li>- I Am Hungry: Where Can I Go to Get Help?</li> <li>- Does Violence on Television Cause Aggressive Behavior in Teens?</li> </ul>
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## To Create Your Bibliography Entries

<http://www.openc.k12.or.us/citeintro/citeintro.php?Grd=Sec>

This site allows you to put in your bibliographical information and it will create a list of your entries for your sources.

### Checklist for a Completed Project

Summary Paper	Yes	No
1. Is the paper typed and double-spaced?		
2. Is the paper between 3 and 5 pages in length?		
3. Does the topic of the paper clearly state the question being explored?		
4. Are all words spelled correctly?		
5. Is my report clear, concise, and grammatically correct?		
6. Does my report include:		
a. Title page ( <i>student's name, school, grade, subject, teacher</i> )		
b. Verification ( <i>include only if someone else typed your paper</i> )		
c. Purpose page		
d. Methodology page		
e. Research		
f. Conclusion ( <i>answers the question being explored</i> )		
g. Bibliography		
h. Credit page ( <i>used to give recognition to someone who helped you</i> )		
<b>Abstract</b>		
7. Is the abstract on a 3 x 5 index card?		
8. Does the abstract include:		
a. A description of the project title?		
b. A statement of the problem?		
c. The methodology?		
d. A conclusion?		
<b>Visual Presentation</b>		
9. Does my backboard include:		
a. A clear statement of the question researched?		
b. Thesis Statement or Statement of Purpose?		
c. Methodology?		
d. Evidence of my research; visuals that illustrate or enhance findings?		
e. Conclusion?		
10. Is my exhibit durable and easily movable?		
11. If an audio or visual recording is used, is it less than 10 minutes?		
12. Does the project need equipment such as extension cords, bulbs, projectors, recorders, or monitors? If so, can the student provide the needed equipment?		
13. Are the materials provided in the visual display <i>student-made</i> and not <i>commercially-made</i> ?		
14. Are my name and other required information included on both my written report and my display?		
15. Have I set up my completed project and done a final examination of my entire display?		
16. Is my exhibit attractive and appealing?		

### Abstract

An abstract of the project should be included on a 4 x 6 index card. The information on the abstract provides a description of the project title, statement of the problem, methodology, and conclusion. Students will give this card to the judges at the beginning of the oral interview.

### Sample Abstract

**Title:** Advertising and Fast Food: How Effective?

**Name:** John Jones and Mary Martin

**Statement of the Problem:** The purpose of this project is to determine the effectiveness of fast food restaurant advertising.

**Methodology:** Surveys were administered to 138 elementary students asking them to match advertising slogans to companies' names. Sales accounts were compared from five fast food restaurants for two months.

**Conclusion:** Findings indicated that students matched the slogans and compared sales accounts correctly. The advertisements were determined to be effective.

### Writing the Thesis Statement

A thesis statement is a sentence that expresses the main ideas of your paper and answers the question posed by your paper. It offers your readers a quick and easy-to-follow summary of what the paper will be discussing and what you as a writer are setting out to tell them.

### Selecting Resource Materials

Resources are available at the public library, the Internet, books, magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, and interviews. No matter which resource materials are selected, it is critical to give credit to the person or people who authored the work! Failing to give proper credit to the authors of any work is plagiarism and is unacceptable in an academic setting.

### Creating an Outline

An outline helps you sort out your main ideas and the facts that support them. These facts and ideas are on the note cards you filled out while doing your research. This outline will help plan the best order for your ideas. An outline has several parts, main topics, and subtopics. A main topic starts with a Roman numeral and a period. A main topic tells a main idea. A subtopic starts with a capital letter and a period. Subtopics give supporting details that tell about the main topic. They are always listed under the main topic. An outline also has a title.

## Format for Your Summary Research Paper

### I. Cover

The paper should be bound in a folder with a cover. The cover should add to the overall aesthetic appearance of the project display. The paper should be placed on the table in front of the backboard.

### II. Title Page

- A. Name of project (*if the name of the project is not the question being researched, the question being researched should appear as a subtitle*)
- B. Student's Name
- C. School's Name
- D. Grade Level
- E. Subject Area/Discipline (*history, sociology, economics, geography, anthropology, etc.*)
- F. Teacher's Name

### III. Verification Page (*if anyone types your paper other than you*)

### IV. Thesis Statement Page (*formerly known as the Purpose Page*)

- A. Clearly state why the research topic was chosen.
- B. Present an overview of the content that will be covered.

### V. Methodology Page

Steps followed to complete the project; does not include steps in writing the paper & creating the display.

- A. Outline the steps followed to complete the Social Studies Fair project.
- B. Students may choose to illustrate the process in the form of a timeline.

### VI. Research

- A. Introductory paragraph
  - 1. Clearly state the general theme.
  - 2. Give the basic ideas that will be developed.
- B. Research Findings
  - 1. Present information in an orderly, sequential, and convincing manner.
  - 2. Include adequate and properly balanced information.

### VII. Conclusion Page

Present a summary of the key ideas presented in the pages, which lead to a conclusion. Summarize what you learned from the information you gathered and studied in the project.

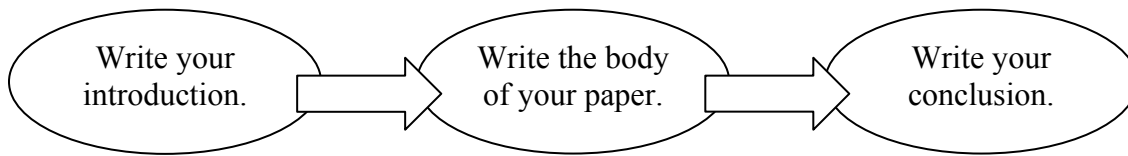
### VIII. Credit Page

Give credit to anyone who provides assistance in the completion of the project.

### IX. Bibliography

## Writing the First Draft

(2007 by Incentive Publications, Inc., Nashville, TN. *How to Write a Great Research Paper, New Edition*)



With your note cards and preliminary outline as references, you are ready to write the first draft of your research paper. As you begin, concentrate on putting down your ideas. Schedule your time wisely so that you will have time to edit your work to determine what needs to be revised or deleted.

*Here are some reminders as you begin your first draft:*

- The purpose of the introduction is to grab the reader's attention.
- The thesis (main idea) is often written as the last sentence in the introductory paragraph.
- The introduction may be one or two paragraphs long.

### Body

- Before writing the body of your paper, separate your note cards according to the main topic and subtopics as shown on your outline.
- Read your note cards aloud. If you discover you have two or more note cards with similar information, place them together.
- Read the cards again to find a logical order. Turn the note cards over as you use them in your draft. Do not discard any cards, as you may be able to use them later.

### Documentation

- Make sure information included in the paper is properly documented.
- Use the MLA format of parenthetical documentation.
- If you use a word-for-word quotation, enclose it in quotation marks and identify the source.

### Conclusion

- The conclusion signals that the paper is coming to an end, and should summarize the main ideas given in the paper.
- The conclusion may be based on your opinion and should not introduce any new information.
- The conclusion is usually one or two paragraphs long.