

Independent Research Project

Frequently Asked Questions

Chemistry I Honors
Mrs. Johannesson

Why should I do an independent research project (IRP)?

1. To learn more about something that interests YOU!
2. To gain firsthand experience in the scientific research process.
3. To put your written, oral, and multimedia communication skills to work.
4. To fulfill the Northside ISD requirement for honors science credit.

What will the independent research project entail?

1. A background research paper on your topic.
2. The design and implementation of an experiment related to your topic.
3. The submission of a Research Report.
4. An oral presentation on the results of your project.

How will I be graded?

Over the course of the project, you will receive two Homework grades, four Lab grades, and two Test/Project grades based on the completion and quality of the required components. Specific grading rubrics will be posted at the appropriate time for each stage of your work.

When is the project due?

Your project will be due in installments according to the Project Timeline. This is intended to help keep you on track. Dates are subject to change if needed.

How can I enter my project in a competition?

1. All students will complete the protocol papers required for either competition.
2. There are two regional competitions in which you are eligible to compete. Presenting at either competition meets the "Original research/project" Advanced Measures requirement for the Distinguished Diploma.
 - **Junior Academy of Science.** Entrants submit a written report and give a 12-minute oral presentation with visual aids such as overhead transparencies or PowerPoint. No exhibit boards are allowed. Entrants should be prepared to answer questions from the judges.
 - **Alamo Regional Science Fair.** Entrants will create an exhibit board and written report to be displayed with the exhibit. Entrants should be prepared to discuss their projects with the judges.

Do you have any other suggestions?

1. Get organized. Devote a clearly labeled section of your binder or a separate folder to your IRP materials. Mark due dates in your school planner.
2. Read all IRP-related materials carefully so you will be aware of what you are required to do and when each part is due.
3. Don't spend hours searching the Internet for project ideas or canned experiments. There are plenty of ideas around you everyday. Just keep your eyes open. Also, there are enough checkpoints along the way that you will NOT be able to fake this project.
4. Don't let the size of the project intimidate you. Take it one step at a time and be prepared to work hard. You will be proud of what you accomplish!