



Research Project Overview

Benefits of Academic Research

Doing research helps you in several ways:

- Academic research helps prepare you for the rigors of **college**
- Increases your chances of receiving **scholarships**
- Original research judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the research for review can meet up to two of the four advanced measures required for the **distinguished diploma**
- Original student research can help you **stand out** in the college application process
- You will learn about science by **doing science**
- You will develop important knowledge and skills that apply to many different **career fields**
- There are **travel** opportunities for students who advance to the top levels of competition
- Presentation of your own research polishes your **presentation skills**
- Research is a way to **learn** a great deal about a topic that really interests you
- Presentation of your science project at the SEA Science and Engineering Fair will earn you up to **50 points** on your first semester exam grade in as many as **five of your SEA classes** (see below)

Student Support

Developing, implementing, and presenting original scientific research is a challenging task. Teachers realize that you will work very hard to complete your research and will recognize those efforts. The total combined score you receive on the six different rubrics will be counted as 50% of the first semester exam grade in every SEA class.

All of your SEA teachers will support you in the production of an excellent project and each will give you feedback about a different part of the project. The back of this handout provides more information about who will be helping and when things are due. Your teachers will give you more specific details about their requirements in class.

The intent of the grading system is to provide a significant positive impact to semester exam grades in all SEA classes to reflect the amount of time and effort students spend developing a science project. General questions may be also addressed to Ms. Nolan, Mr. Sumpter, or Mrs. Greff.

Make sure to have all required ISEF forms, including the research plan, completed and approved before any experimentation. Please reference the official science fair website at <http://sciserv.org/isef/> for more details. Also be sure to give yourself extra time because sometimes things don't go as planned.

See the other side for answers to frequently asked questions

Important Dates

Date:

Tuesday, December 1

Friday, December 4 from 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

Saturday, December 5 from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Monday, December 7 from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Event:

SEA Science and Engineering Fair registration ends

Set up for the SEA Science and Engineering Fair

SEA Science and Engineering Fair

Awards Ceremony

Student Support Time-Line

Your teachers will evaluate the indicated areas of your research project and give you feedback:

Teacher:

Your social studies teacher

Your science teacher

Your math teacher

Your English teacher

Your science teacher

Your SEA elective teacher

Area:

Introduction & Bibliography

Research Plan

Data Analysis

Research Paper

Abstract

Project Approval & Completion

Tentative time-line for initial feedback:

September 21 - October 2

October 5 - October 16

November 9 - November 20

November 9 - November 20

November 16 - December 4

Ongoing - final review at SEA Science Fair

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is required to do an academic project?

A science project is required of all freshmen and sophomores during in the 2009-2010 school year.

Why will it be required for students to do an academic research project every year?

The reasons listed on the other side of this paper clearly outline some of the many benefits student receive through doing research. Finally, our students and parents expect a school that offers them something different and beyond that which they can get at their neighborhood high-school.

Can students do other academic research projects like history fair?

A limited number of juniors and seniors may chose to complete a history fair project, ISM presentation, or a ACE mentorship project in lieu of a science or engineering project. All freshmen and sophomores will be required to do a science or engineering project, although select sophomores may "double up" and complete a history fair project as well.

How will students be graded on their projects and for which classes will the grades count?

Individual components of each students' science and engineering project will be reviewed by SEA teachers in all four core academic classes (English, math, science, and social studies) and all SEA elective class. A final review will be performed at the SEA Science and Engineering Fair in December. A combined score of up to 50 points will be recorded and applied to the first semester exam grade of each of the five SEA classes.