

Shorter, Eight Week Timeline

Week 1

- Think, what do you care about or are you passionate about? What books, educational TV shows, or internet sites do you stop to look at or read?
- Begin your Log Book now and write something each and every day from now on about what you are thinking.
- Generate 3 ideas or "Problems" that you are curious about or wonder about.
- Don't think about the solutions at first, just think about what needs to be done better, faster, or "right."
- Then, narrow down to one favorite topic you would like explore.
- Make it into a question you want answered!

Week 2

- Research the history of your problem; find out what has already been done!
- Write a report on the problem and the research you have done
- Write a Statement of the Problem and/or a Hypothesis about your question.
- Brainstorm ways to test it, ways to answer your own question.
- Ask for SRC permission if it involves humans, animals or things that could be dangerous.

Week 3

- Make list of materials you will need. Define what you mean by certain terms.
- Think of all the variables you CAN control.
- Think of all the variables you just cannot control that might have affected your results, but will discuss at the end just like all good researchers do.
- Write your specific procedure for testing. Plan to do re-trials, re-testing and use enough subjects.

Weeks 4-5-6

- Work on your experiment. Collect and record your data.
- Take photos all along the way (but not of peoples' faces).
- Write everything down in your journal, even mistakes and problems!

Week 7

- Type up the final procedure you actually used. Number your steps.
- Organize the data. Write up the results you found based on your data.
- Analyze your data (Put into charts and graphs and explain each one).
- Form Conclusions based on the data. What did you find as an answer to your original question or problem?
- Discuss variables that could have influenced results.

Week 8

- Type up each section. Print graphs and charts. Paste all sections on display board.
- Select a catchy, creative title.
- Decorate and add color, photos – use creativity to make judges want to read your project!
- Write your final research report by taking the report you wrote at the beginning as background and then adding in all that you did and found while doing your project.

*It is always wise to allow Extra Time, just in case it is needed!

IMPORTANT DATES: ALL PROJECT TIMELINES

SARSEF Registration Closes February 20th, 2014 so ALL projects must be completed and entered by then.

SARSEF is the Week of **March 10 - 14, 2014** at the Tucson Convention Center.

SARSEF Project set up is Monday, March 10, from Noon to 8:00 P.M. Bring Express Check-in Forms (that will be available on-line the week before the Fair), project board and all notebooks.

Judging is March 11th. At this time, student interviews are at 11:00 for Middle School (Highly Encouraged) and 1:00 for High School (Required). Elementary students are not interviewed.

Future Innovators Night is March 12 from 5:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. This is an Open House filled with interactive displays to celebrate ANY student who did a science fair project at your school—even if they were not selected to go to SARSEF. Winners at SARSEF are announced after this event, on-line at 8:00 P.M.

Awards Ceremonies Proposed (Check website for possible changes): Thursday March 13, for Elementary at 6:30 P.M. and Friday, March 14 at 7:00 P.M. for Middle and High School

Two SUGGESTED TIME LINES

FOR COMPLETING A SCIENCE PROJECT
(One longer, one shorter)

The following framework may help you decide how much time your students will need to complete their research projects. Each can be modified to fit your school's needs.

Need additional help and free resources? Go to: www.sarsef.org and www.sciencebuddies.org for more information! Contact Kathleen@sarsef.org to schedule free classroom visits on how to conduct a successful research project.

Longer, Four-Month Time Line

Week 1,2

- Think, what do you care about or are you passionate about? Animals, stars, sports? They ALL have science! What books in the library, educational TV shows, or internet sites do you stop to look at or read?
- Begin your Log Book now and write something each and every day from now on about what you are thinking.
- Generate 3 areas of science and ideas or "Problems" that you are curious about or wonder about.
- Don't think about the solutions at first, just think about what needs to be done better, faster, or "right."
- Then, narrow down to one favorite topic you would like explore. Make it into a question you want answered!

Week of 3,4

- Start researching the history of your problem, why it is a problem, and find out what has already been done.
- Write a report on the problem and your research.
- Write a Statement of the Problem and/or a Hypothesis about your question.
- Brainstorm ways to answer your own question by testing new ideas.
- Ask for SRC permission if it involves humans, animals or things that could be dangerous.

Week 5

- Make list of materials you will need. Define what you mean by certain terms.
- Think of all the variables you CAN control.
- Think of all the variables you just cannot control that might have affected your results, but will discuss at the end just like all good researchers do.
- Write your specific procedure for testing. Plan to do re-trials, re-testing and use enough subjects.

Week 6 -12

- Work on your experiment. Collect and record your data.
- Take photos all along the way (but not of peoples' faces).
- Write everything down in your journal, even mistakes and problems!

Week 13-14

- Type up the final procedure you actually used. Number your steps.
- Organize the data. Write up the results you found based on your data.
- Analyze your data (Put into charts and graphs and explain each one).
- Form Conclusions based on the data. What did you find as an answer to your original question or problem?
- Discuss variables that could have influenced results.

Week 15, 16

- Type up each section. Print graphs and charts. Paste all sections on to display board.
 - Select a catchy, creative title.
 - Decorate and add color, photos – use creativity to make judges want to read your project!
 - Write your final research report by taking the report you wrote at the beginning as background and then adding in all that you did and found while doing your project.
- *It is always wise to allow Extra Time, just in case it is needed!