

Desert Data Jam Presentation Board Requirements

The board must be a standard, folding science fair display board, no larger than 36" x 48." It must have the following ten components:

1. Title of project should be descriptive and succinct.
2. Background: In your own words, describe your science topic (e.g. decomposition, airborne dust, habitat change) to someone unfamiliar with it. Explain why these topics are important in our area.
3. Question: Clearly state what question researchers were trying to answer in collecting the data. For example, does a country's average precipitation or gross domestic product help explain that country's per capita water withdrawals?
4. Procedures: **In your own words**, describe the methods used in the research project. Include details such as who collected data, how data was collected, where data was collected, frequency of data collection, etc.
5. Variables: Clearly identify the independent variable(s) and the dependent variable(s) in the research. Remember that independent variables do not change due to any of the other variables in the project. Dependent variables are generally what you are measuring in your project; they usually depend on one or more other variables. For example, in a study measuring the effects of fertilizer and the amount of water on plant growth, plant growth is the dependent variable and fertilizer and water are the independent variables.
6. Graph: Create a graph of the data used for your creative project. For example, if you were only comparing the water use and average annual precipitation of Botswana and the United States, then you would only graph the data from these two countries. If, however, you were including the relationship of gross domestic product and water use, you would need to graph gross domestic product as well. Computer-generated or hand-drawn graphs are allowed. Graph must be **student made**.
7. Data trend: What trend do you want to highlight with your creative project?
8. Possible explanation: Can you think of a possible explanation for why we found the data trend you identified in #7? Make sure your explanation is supported by evidence and is consistent with scientific ideas.
9. Creative project: This is the heart of your Desert Data Jam project. Prominently display your creative project (e.g. video, infographic, poem) on or near your board. Make sure that it focuses on the data trend you identified in #7.
10. Brief reflection (1-2 paragraphs) on the Desert Data Jam. Which part was the most fun? What challenges did you have? What did you learn? What other questions do you now have?