

Science Fair Rationale (Research Paper)

You will be expected to write a rationale or research paper before you start your science fair project. Here are some helpful types on how the rationale should look and flow.

1. You must have at least 5 sources for your science fair. Those five sources must be cited correctly in an Annotative Bibliography. Annotative means that you write a brief reason why this source is a good one for your research after you have cited the source.
 - a. Use the following web site to help you correctly cite your sources. You can not just put the web site address. That is not a bibliography.
 - b. <http://www.citationmachine.net/>
 - i. Choose your style: APA
 - ii. Choose your source and fill out the information it asks.
 - iii. Click Create Citation
 - iv. Copy and paste your bibliography.
2. While researching your topic, make sure you ask yourself and answer the following questions:
 - a. Why is this project important?
 - b. Include a brief summary of the background that supports your research problem.
 - c. Explain why this research is important scientifically.
 - d. Explain any societal impact of your research.
3. In the actual rationale:
 - a. Paragraph 1:
 - i. Include what your problem is
 - ii. Why is it important and why did you pick this topic
 - iii. What you would like to find.
 - b. Paragraph 2-?:
 - i. Your summary of the background and facts that supports your research problem.
 - ii. There is no set number of paragraphs for this part. Each fact should be its own paragraph.
 - c. Last Paragraph:
 - i. Explain why this research is important scientifically.
 - ii. Explain any societal impact of your research.
 - iii. Explain what do you expect to gain by doing this investigation.
4. You will write this in the Scienteer Online Student Question Form.