**Background Research Report**

As part of your experiment, you must collect background information about your topic**. You should also document all of your research in your data notebook (composition book) including the date(s) of when you were researching your topic.**

The background research report should be set up as follows:

* Typed on 8.5” x 11” standard printing paper
* A minimum of 3 full pages long (excluding the bibliography)
* Double-spaced
* 12 pt. Times New Roman font
* No larger than 1” margins
* Left alignment
* Introduction paragraph, supporting paragraphs, concluding paragraph
* Bibliography page (cite a minimum of 5 sources) [See below for more information regarding the bibliography]
* \*Note: You do **NOT** write about the specific, step-by-step procedures of your experiment. This is written later in your experimental plan.
* Your background report should be in your own words. It is okay to quote an article, but you must give credit to the author.
  + EX:“Science is the best class in the world”(Conway).
  + If there is no author given, include the main website 🡪 “Science is the best class in the world”([www.sciencenewstoday.com](http://www.sciencenewstoday.com)).
  + You should cite anything in your paper that is not your own original thought. You do not need to cite general information you find on a topic, but any specific facts or ideas that you use should be cited. Plagiarism is easy to spot – credit will not be given if your research paper is plagiarized.

The background research report should include the following:

1. **General information about your topic.** To successfully write a background research report, assume the audience has some science knowledge, but is not familiar with your topic.

*The following are examples of questions that you would research for a topic/subject of acids. These questions give you general information about acids, which is exactly what you would want to include in your background research.*

*-What is an acid?*

*-How are acids made?*

*-When where they discovered?*

*-What do acids do?*

*-What are acids used for?*

*-How do you identify an acid?*

*-What happens when you put acid on something? (explain everything you can find so others understand what you are doing)*

1. **Include a brief discussion about how the variables (independent, dependent, and controlled variables) might affect your experiment.**

**How to Write Your Bibliography:**

A bibliography is an alphabetical list of all of the sources you have consulted for an essay or research paper. You must list your sources in a specific format. Use this guide to create your bibliography in the correct format.

* You should still use Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, and 1” margins.
* Use [www.bibme.org](http://www.bibme.org) (an easy-to-use, online bibliography generator) or personally cite your sources using MLA format. Make sure to INCLUDE the website URL in each citation.
* One of your 5 (minimum) sources MUST be the “Intel ISEF Rules for All Projects” shown below. Citing this source is your acknowledgment to the rules and regulations of Science Fair. It has already been formatted for you, so all you will need to do is simply copy and paste it into your bibliography.

"Rules for All Projects." *Student Science*. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Aug. 2015. <https://student.societyforscience.org/rules-all-projects>.

* You will still need a minimum of 4 additional sources.
* You can use a variety of sources, but please do not use WIKIPEDIA.
* Websites should be documented *specifically*

Example: http:/npin.org/library/2001/n00584/n00534.html

**NOT**: www.google.com