

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.
2. BACKGROUND ON THE SCIENCE TOPIC: In your own words, give background information that would help a non-scientist understand the science topic (e.g. decomposition, airborne dust, habitat change, drought). Explain why the topic is important. An excellent background section will require that you do a bit of reading about the topic (beyond what is on the two-pager).
3. INFORMATION ABOUT THE DATASET: **In your own words**, describe the methods used to collect these data. Include details such as who collected data, how data were collected, frequency of data collection, etc. Make sure to also include all of the variables in the full dataset. You do not need to use your own words for the variables.
4. QUESTION: State the scientific question you were trying to answer using some of the data from the dataset. Your question should include the variables you are comparing. For example, "Does the percentage of New Mexico 9th grade students who are physically active in a year depend on the percentage of students who are involved in sports that year?"
5. DATA TREND: What trend do you see when you examine the data and try to answer your question? This trend will be used for sections 6, 7, 8, and 9 below.
6. VARIABLES: Identify the independent variable(s) and the dependent variable(s) in your question and data trend. Dependent variables are often what you are measuring in your project; they usually depend on one or more other variables. Independent variables are generally not changed by other variables being measured. For example, in the question in #4, the percentage of NM 9th graders who are physically active is the dependent variable and the percentage of students who are involved in sports is the independent variable.
7. GRAPH OF THE DATA TREND: Create a graph showing the data trend you selected. You do not need to include data that are not related to your trend. Computer-generated or hand-drawn graphs are allowed. Graph must be **student made**.
8. POSSIBLE EXPLANATION: Give a possible explanation for why you found the data trend you identified in #5. 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, physical model, poem) on or near your board. Make sure that it focuses on the data trend you identified in #5.
10. BRIEF REFLECTION (1-2 paragraphs): We want to know what you thought about Data Jam! Answer questions such as: Which part was the most fun? What challenges did you have? What did you learn? You automatically get five points for including this section on your board and zero points for forgetting. Don't forget this section!