

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, beetle population). Explain why the topic is important. An excellent background section will require that you do a bit of research 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, where the data was collected, frequency of data collection, etc.
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.
5. 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; the value of the dependent variable usually depends on one or more other variables. Independent variables are generally not changed by other variables being measured.
6. GRAPH OF THE DATA TREND: Create a graph answering your question, and showing the data trend you use in your creative project. 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**.
7. DATA TREND: What trend do see when you examine the data and graph, and try to answer your question?
8. POSSIBLE EXPLANATION: Give a possible explanation for why you 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, physical model, 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): 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!