

TYPES OF PROJECTS

Experimental: This type of project begins with a question of a scientific nature. It involves changing a variable, observing and recording the effects of changing the variable, and interpreting the importance of these effects. Experimental projects must have a control group to compare results to. Repeated trials or the use of large sample sizes are important processes to reduce the possibility of error and increase the validity of the results.

Descriptive Study: These projects involve comparing two or more different groups. The set up is much like experimental projects but missing the element of a control group. In this type of study you could compare the amount of seagrasses in a protected area against areas frequented by boaters.

Product testing is not an acceptable scientific study.

Restrictions/Ethics:

Science Fair protocol prohibits any middle school student from working with bacteria or fungi in their home. Similarly, any work involving human or animal tissue will not be allowed in middle school fairs. The student must read and cite the MSDS sheet for any chemical that is used in the experiment. Safety of the experimenter and the community must always be a priority!