

General Information

- Each student may enter one project. Two students in a given class may not do the same project. Projects are to be done on an individual basis; no team projects are permitted. Students may seek help from an adult with typing, backboard construction, and critique of methods. Backboard design/layout must be the student's own work. At all grade levels, students must do 90% of the total work.
- Student's name, grade, and school name must be on the back of the backboard in the upper right-hand corner. The student's name and school is not to be visible to the judges.
- Students are encouraged to stay within their grade level curriculum, but can vary with teacher approval.
- Backboards should measure no taller than 72", no wider than 48", and no deeper than 30".
- Possible materials for backboard displays are plywood, wood, pegboard, pressed wood, foamcore, and cardboard. Materials for backboard must be stiff and able to stand solidly. Note: Cardboard may need reinforcement/back support. Projects must be free standing for the display table. If the display board has joints, they must be securely hinged (metal hinges for heavier boards; binding tape may be used for cardboard).
- The backboard display should be attractive, creative, eye catching, neat, and informative. Make a simple, easy-to-follow design that can "shout" its message in just a few seconds. Avoid gaudy, splashy, bizarre approaches to the design. Clutter tends to confuse instead of clarify.
- Lettering should be large and attractive (avoid hand lettering unless the student is talented/artistic in that area). Titles should be short and descriptive, but large, clear and neat. Use pictures, diagrams, graphs, photographs whenever possible. (Computer generated graphics must be the student's work.). All items on the backboard (examples, drawings, models, photographs, tables, graphs, and other items) need to be labeled neatly and attractively. The project title, hypothesis, abstract (250 words or fewer), and biblical application must be on the display board. Make your project tell a story. Make it explain itself.
- Select colors tastefully. A single pastel shade for background is better than white, which tends to appear "vacant". Dark tones should be used to accent the areas to be emphasized. Green and yellow shades suggest natural sciences, red and blues, the technical and applied sciences, and blues and white suggest medicine.
- All backboards must include Scripture. The Scripture must be relevant to the study that was done. Some ideas are not specifically mentioned in the Bible, but there are verses that develop principles, which can be related to the project. The intent is to relate all areas of science to the Creator of the Universe.
- Each project must have a "hand-made" visual in front of the backboard; not something purchased. The visual may be a sculpture or a model of their project made out of clay, paper mache', etc. This should be a student-generated production. Parental support and suggestions are encouraged at this stage, as at all stages, but it should NOT be strictly the parents' construction. The visual should enhance the overall appearance of the backboard and clearly represent the topic of the research paper.