



Background Research Plan Worksheet

Name: _____

1. What is the **question** you are going try to answer with an experiment? _____

2. List the **keywords** and phrases from your question and the topic in general. (Hint: Use an encyclopedia to help you)

3. Now use your keywords to build some **questions to guide your background research**. Develop at least two or three from each “question word.” Don’t worry about whether you already know the answer to the question—you’ll find the answers when you do your background research. And don’t forget to “network” with knowledgeable adults who can help guide you toward good materials!

Question Word	Possible Questions (you can think of others)	Substitute your keywords (or variations of your keywords) for the blanks in the previous column. Write down the relevant questions and use them to guide your background research.
Why	Why does ___ happen? Why does ___ ___? Why _____?	
How	How does ___ happen? How does ___ work? How does ___ detect ___? How does one measure ___? How do we use ___? How _____?	

Question Word	Possible Questions (you can think of others)	Substitute your keywords (or variations of your keywords) for the blanks in the previous column. Write down the relevant questions and use them to guide your background research.
Who	Who needs ____? Who discovered ____? Who invented ____? Who _____?	
What	What causes ____ to increase/decrease? What is ____ made of? What are the characteristics of ____? What is the relationship between ____ and ____? What do we use ____ for? What _____?	
When	When does ____ cause ____? When was ____ discovered? When _____?	
Where	Where does ____ occur? Where does ____ get used? Where _____?	

4. To analyze the results from experiments you might need to know some **key formulas or equations**. Think about your own experiment and write down any step or task that requires a formula or equation. Don't worry about whether you already know what the formula or equation is—you'll find the actual equation when you do your background research.

List steps or tasks that may require a formula or equation:

Science Fair Research Paper Formal Outline

Name _____

Title of Paper _____

I. Opening Paragraph

a. Lead: _____

b. Thesis Statement: _____

II. First Body Paragraph

a. Topic Sentence: _____

1. Fact: _____

2. Fact: _____

3. Fact: _____

III. First Body Paragraph

a. Topic Sentence: _____

1. Fact: _____

2. Fact: _____

3. Fact: _____

Your Name _____

Source: Website

Title of Article _____

Author _____

Website Title _____

Access Date (Today's Date) _____

Web Address _____

NOTES

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Source: Encyclopedia

Title of Article _____

Title of Encyclopedia _____

Editors _____

Place of Publication _____

Publishing Company _____

Copyright Date _____ Volume # _____ Page #'s _____

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