

Glossary

Scientific method	The way of proving whether something is true or false by carrying out experiments. The steps of the scientific method are: aim/ hypothesis, method, results, interpretations, conclusion(s).
Observation	Something interesting (a phenomenon) that you have noticed. e.g. Elephants prefer to eat leaves off trees.
Question	This is what you want to know about the phenomenon. e.g. Why do elephants prefer tree leaves?
Aim	The why behind doing an experiment. Usually stated as 'to show....', 'to demonstrate.....'.
Hypothesis	A proposal intended to explain certain facts or observations - this is a statement based on the aim.
Method	A step wise description, written in the third person, of how the project is being done. It includes the apparatus used (where relevant).
Variable	Factor/s that affect(s) an experiment.
Controlled/ Fixed variable	Factor/s that cannot change throughout the experiment.
Independent/Manipulated variable	Factor that is being investigated in an experiment.
Dependent/ Responding variable	The results obtained after doing the investigation. They are dependent on the independent variable and change as the independent variable changes.
Results	What can be discovered from doing the investigation or project? They should be quantitative - that is can be measured and recorded in a table. Graphs should be able to be drawn.
Interpretation	Describing the results and the relationships shown in the results in words - they must be directly related to the data collected in the results.

Conclusion(s)	Relates the results obtained to the aim/hypothesis and either agrees or disagrees with the aim/hypothesis.
Errors and modifications	What went wrong that you can change next time and what could you have done if you had more time or resources.
Bibliography / References	ALL the books, magazines & internet sites that you consulted while doing your project.
Acknowledgements	A list of people who helped you and what they did.
Mentor	A person who assists you as you develop your project and gives you professional help (e.g. a scientist).
Regional Expo	An Expo held in one of 26 regions in .
National Finals	The last round of the annual Eskom Expo for Young Scientists when the best projects in the whole Country are exhibited in one venue.