

# How to Carry Out a Successful Research Project

Adapted from the 2006 Research Fair Entry form by Susan Hull, Midwest Region

## A successful Research Project:

1. Represents your work – not that of an expert or your parents.
2. Demonstrates that you understand the material.
3. Shows careful planning – not a “rush” project.
4. *Shows a complete record of all your work in the Journal.*
5. Includes photographs, pictures, charts, graphs and neat lettering.
6. Is neat, attractive and organized.
7. **Does not have to cost much money.**
8. **Experimental projects directly involving horses should be very carefully thought out and created in close consultation with and approval by your DC and your veterinarian. They should be supervised by a knowledgeable adult to insure that no harm or injury occurs. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your proposed experiment, before proceeding any further, contact your equine veterinarian &/or local/state Humane society to obtain further information regarding your state’s own animal treatment laws.**

## Steps in making your Research Project:

1. Choose a topic or question that interests you and discuss it with your DC.
2. Once you have chosen your topic, find out as much about it as possible.
3. Determine what question you want to answer.
4. Keep a journal of your thoughts, preparation, ideas & readings. This will be part of your display.
5. Set up a work area somewhere around your house where you can work on your project. Make sure it is off limits to younger sisters or brothers or pets!
6. Check with your parents for suggestions and materials. They can save you time, excess work and money.
7. Collect the materials needed for your project.
8. Work on your project every week. Do not wait until the last minute!
9. Construct your exhibit.
10. Mount your pictures, graphs, charts and report findings on your display. Make sure you include your journal.
11. Rehearse/present your project with your Pony Club and listen to their feedback.
12. Present your Research Fair Project to the judges at the Annual Meeting!!

## Your Method:

1. **PURPOSE: What do you want to learn?**  
What do you want to explore? Choose something that interests you.
2. **RESEARCH: Find out as much about your topic as you can.**  
How can you find the answer to your question?
3. **HYPOTHESIS: Predict the answer to your question.**  
Your hypothesis is what you think the answer to your question will be. It must be very clear and brief so that you can test or verify it.
4. **PROCEDURE: Design a test/project to confirm or disprove your prediction.**  
Tell what you will do to test or research your prediction or hypothesis.
5. **ANALYSIS: Record what happened during the experiment or research.**
6. **CONCLUSION: What did you learn? (CONCLUSION)**