

Name(s) of ISEFers:

Date:

ISEF PROJECT PRÉCIS

Working title of the project:

I/we plan to (check the choice that best fits your project at this time):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do an experiment to test a hypothesis | <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a new way of doing something |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct an observational experiment | <input type="checkbox"/> Develop something new with math |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create something new to address a need | <input type="checkbox"/> Develop something new with computers |

Problem Statement: Provide context for this project with one or two sentences that briefly describes a currently existing issue. Explain the value of your project with EVIDENCE from your background research.

Research question OR the Engineering Goal:

A good research question refers to an independent variable to one or more dependent variables.

A good engineering goal is a focused declarative sentence or two that summarizes the specific goal(s) of your project stated using goal-oriented terms of desired outcomes.

Background Research Citations and their Value – write out on a separate page and attach to this worksheet:

these citations should be written in APA format and you should have a minimum of 5

- One reference that presents basic background knowledge related to your topic (often a textbook or manual).
- One article on why this topic is important
- One reference on what is known about the *focused area* you plan to examine within that topic area
- One reference for the methods used in projects of this type – maybe shows a procedure you can use, or explains what equipment was used, or shows appropriate statistical analysis
- One that describes findings of a related experiment or engineering design.

Fill out the following in for each of the five articles (you may choose to recreate this table on a separate page or there are additional tables at the end of the document):

Citation (APA Format)	This article supports the: <input type="checkbox"/> Background research <input type="checkbox"/> Methods <input type="checkbox"/> Importance of the topic <input type="checkbox"/> Related experiment or engineering design <input type="checkbox"/> Focus area in my topic
Thesis Statement (main argument):	
3 facts that you think will be important later: You don't need one of each, but consider: ethos (establishing credibility), logos (facts, statistics, examples, quotes), and pathos (emotional appeal)	
A quote that inspires your project:	Your thoughts (reactions, connections, agree, disagree, ideas to build on/support or refute)

- I checked on the ISEF project database to see if my project has already been done/investigate and if it has, I have an idea about how I can modify/improve. [Link to ISEF Project Database: https://student.societyforscience.org/projects-database](https://student.societyforscience.org/projects-database)

Experimental Considerations & Risks: (Check all that apply)

- Use of vertebrate animals** (such as changing diet, behavior study, taking tissue or other samples from the animal)
- Use of human subjects** (such as asking people to eat and/or drink anything, exercise, do a quiz or answer survey questions)
- Growth and study of bacteria, fungi, molds, and/or viruses; use of animal or human tissues**
- Potentially hazardous chemicals** (even common household chemicals that might harm health or the environment)
- Hazardous activities** (NOTE: most projects involving weapons are NOT allowed)

All projects must have an Adult Sponsor. See your ISEF Guidebook for more information about this person's role in your project. Please have your Adult Sponsor* sign this form before you turn it in.

To the Adult Sponsor: *I have reviewed this brief project proposal and am willing to serve as Adult Sponsor on this ISEF project for the school year. As Adult Sponsor, I will offer suggestions on the research plan when it is shared with me, and periodically check in with the student to affirm progress.*

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

*In some research areas, your Adult Sponsor is assigned. Please talk to your ISEF coordinator if you're doing a project in behavioral science, chemistry, microbiology, or engineering

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