

"Off Limit" Science Fair Ideas

Ultimately, all science experiments should have a higher purpose: for improving the quality of life for mankind. In order to have greater diversity and sophistication in the science fair experiments, this is a list of ideas that are **not allowed** due to their overuse, inquiry is below grade level and expectations, and obvious conclusions in middle school science fairs (ex. Which plant will grow the fastest: the one given water, no water, or acid). If you have an experiment that you feel is worthy of research and is on this list, I will meet with you individually to determine the qualifications of your idea. Be prepared to give a rationale as to why it should be allowed (modifications may be required).

Biology

- Blood pressure: caffeine, music, video games, sugar, scary movies, television shows
- Bacterial Experiments: which place is the dirtiest, human vs. animal mouth bacteria, 5-second rule, effects of hand sanitizer, wipes, spray, cleaners, air-fresheners.
- Mold Experiments, especially on bread mold
- Anything to do with raw meat

Botany (Plant) Experiments

- Plant Growth: different liquids, different temperatures of liquids, with or without light, different colored light, flower food, fertilizer
- Music and its affect on plants
- Talking to plants

Chemistry

- Acid content in different orange juices
- Any harmful or combustible chemical experiments
- Burning rate of candles
- Ripening in Fruit
- Tooth decay – real teeth are difficult to come by

Consumer Science

- Brand of paper towel
- Brand of detergent
- Brand of bleach, stain remover
- Brand of batteries
- Garbage bag strength

Physics

- Egg Toss, drop
- Pasta bridge designs

- Bouncing or dropping a ball
- Shooting basketballs: best position, fatigue factor, different surfaces.
- Which color attracts the most heat: white, gray, or black
- Soccer, baseball, hockey, lacrosse, etc. goals, pitches, throws

All Social Investigations

- What color, music, food, celebrity, or clothing style is the best
- Who is smarter, more popular

Zoology

Any experiments involving animals needs to get prior approval.