Example Science Fair Posters

Examples can serve as great learning tools. They give you a foundation from which to build. As you review what others have done, it can help you to clarify what you like and what you don't. Examples can allow you to see opportunities for how you can do more, or do something different. Let's look at a series of examples. Along the way consider:

- What do you like?
- What don't you like?
- What do you see as effective communication tools?
- Which color schemes are attractive? Which aren't?
- What makes your project unique, and how might you capitalize on that?
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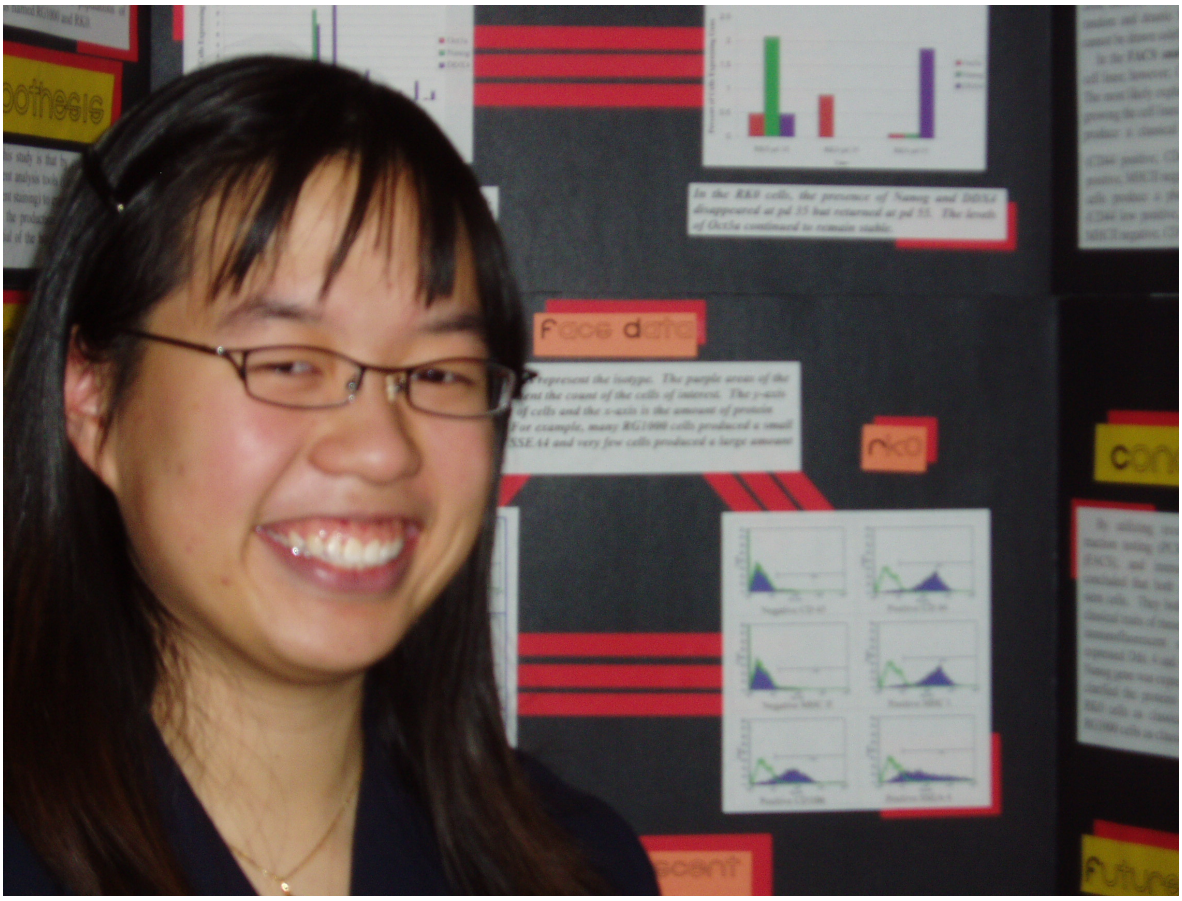
Grab your laboratory notebook. Start sketching down ideas. Make lists of things you want to remember and consider as you make your own unique creation!



Example #1

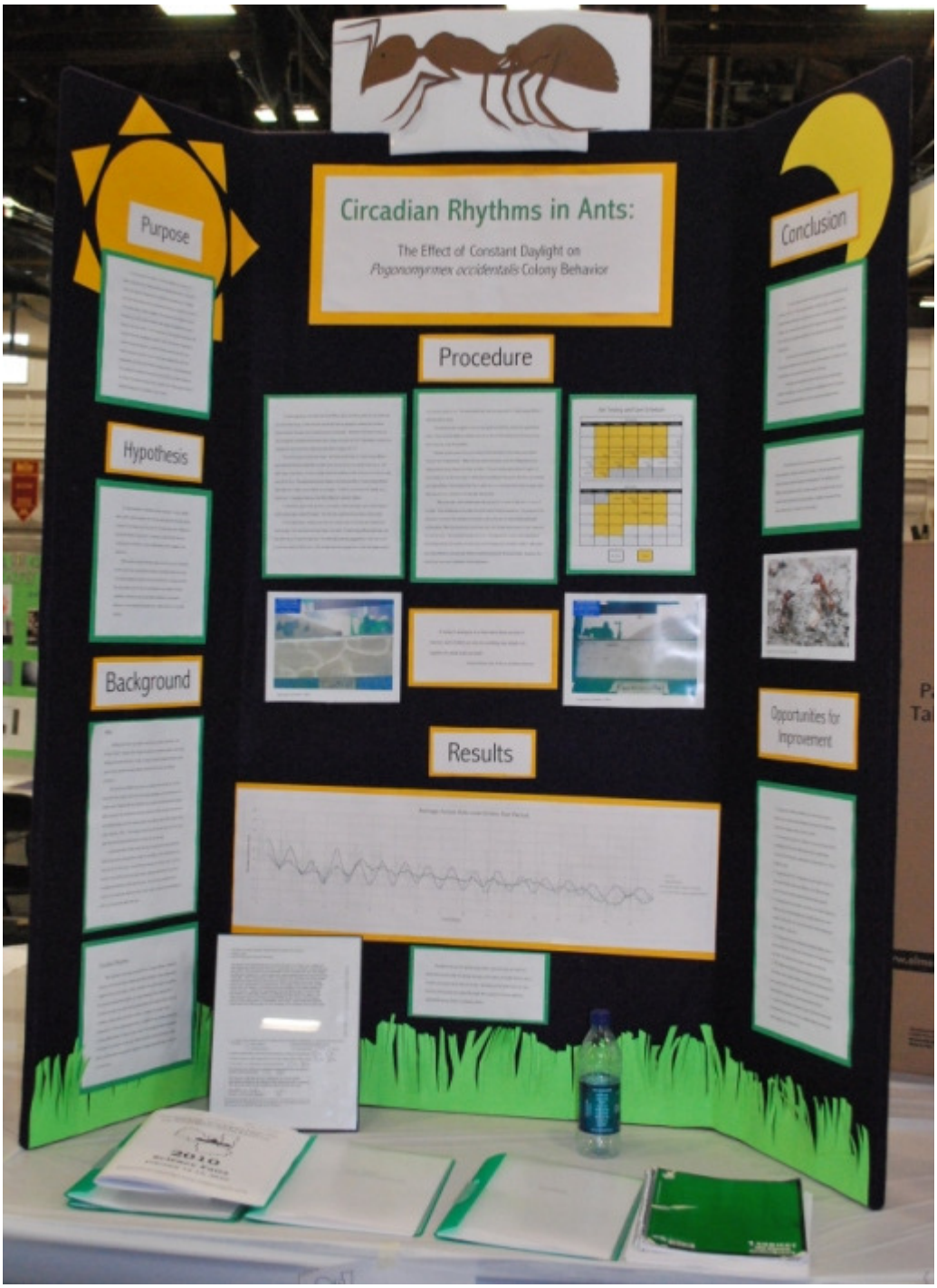
This board is quite attractive. It's easy to read and applies strong visual images to communicate the work. The Purpose and Hypothesis are clear and easy to find. The results, discussion and conclusions are all in bulleted lists, which make reading them easier. And the area addressing future work is quite clear. The two things I would suggest they could have done a little differently would have been to put the Abstract in a photo frame on the table, instead of on the board. And the Background section has a lot of text. They did a great job on the rest of the board summarizing information in abbreviated bullets. Maybe they could have considered that in the background section as well.

Example #2

Like the previous example, this board is also quite attractive. You will note all the folders on the table detailing his SRC forms, lab journal, references and research paper. He also has his abstract in a vertical photo frame that is not on the board. Things I think he could do to enhance his board include:

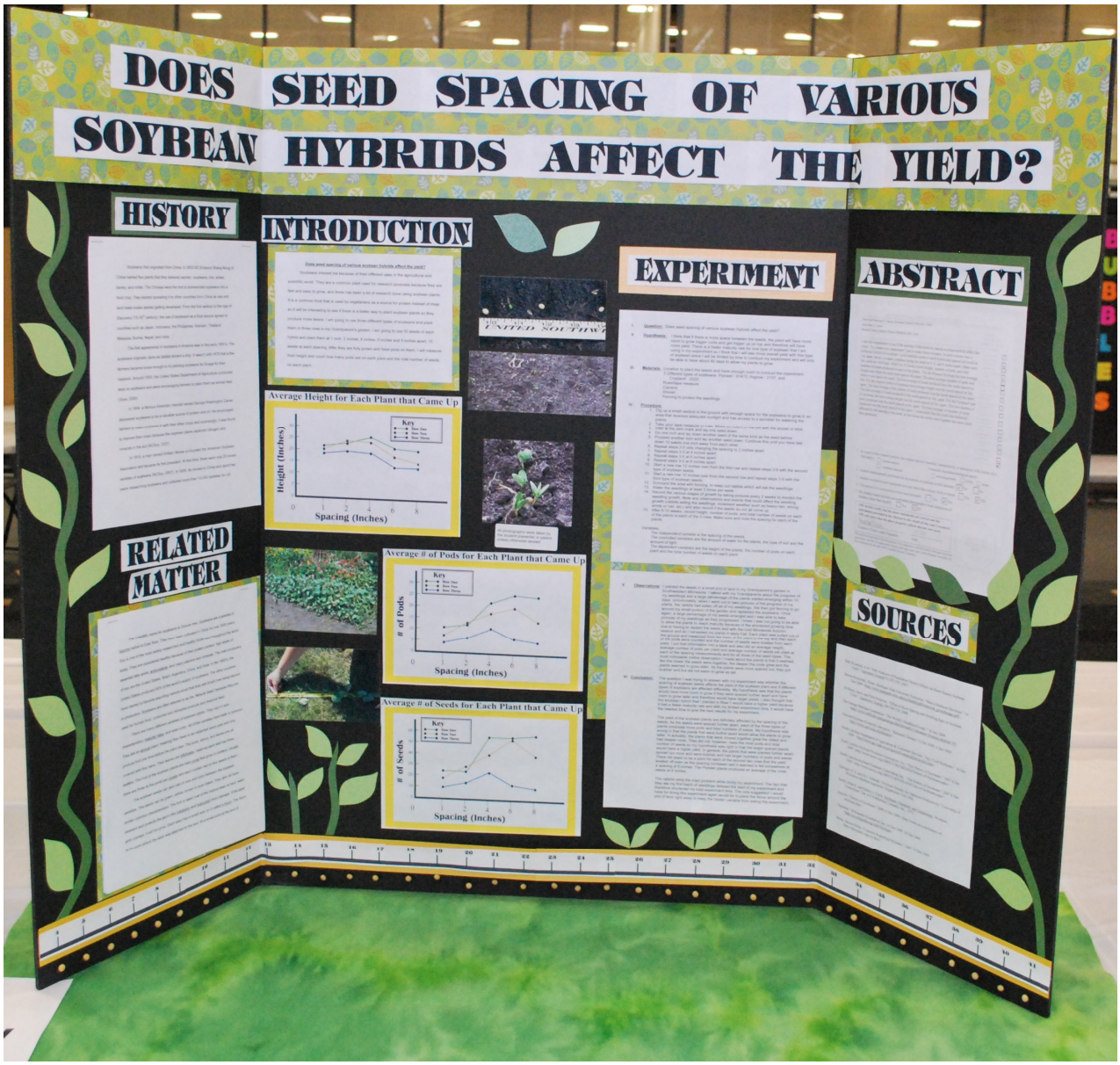
- Make the text easier to read. Right now there is too much information and the font size is too small
- Use more images. The board, while attractive, could be more engaging.
- Increase the visual appeal of the various notebooks. He could try for better use of color on his title pages, or some theme that would be consistent with his board. For example, he could make title pages for his notebooks that are based on the same color theme as his board with the same Title headings (font and color).
- Use a tri-fold board to allow for more space. By adding sides and possibly even height, it would allow him to retain much of his current information, but express it over an increased surface area.

Example #3



I love the creativity displayed by this student. Note the use of color themes throughout. It has a logical flow of information. See the Abstract displayed horizontally in the front in a photo frame. While we may not seek to have a board that is this unique, this student certainly set themselves apart. There's a lot to be said for that ingenuity.

Example #4



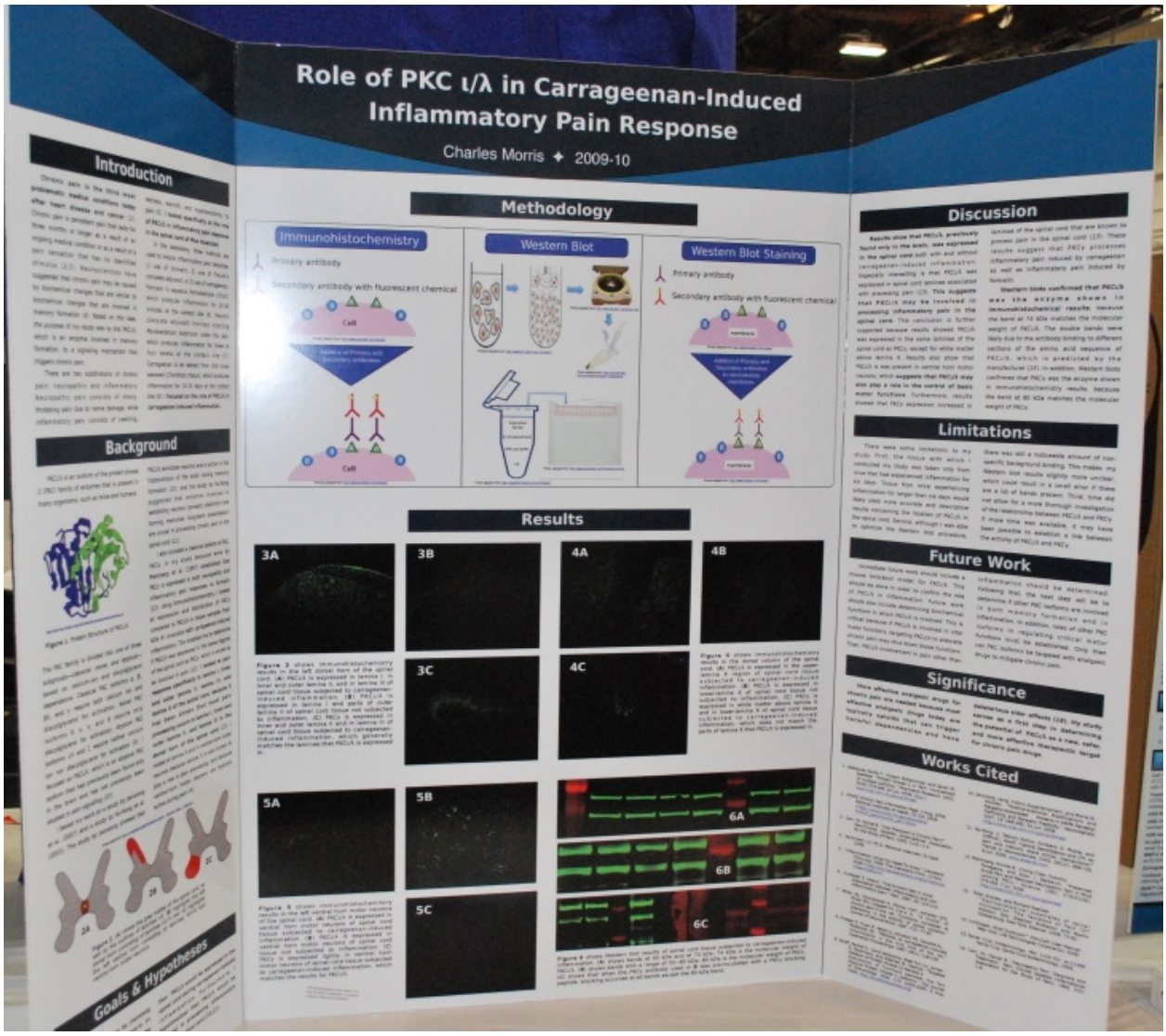
Students always think this board is interesting when I show it to them. What makes it even more special is that it was done by a seventh grader! They did a great job of being unique, but professional. Notice also the use of a cloth under the board that ties directly to the board itself.

Example #5

This student, Adam Hahn, was in SciMent a number of years ago. Things that I really like about his board include:

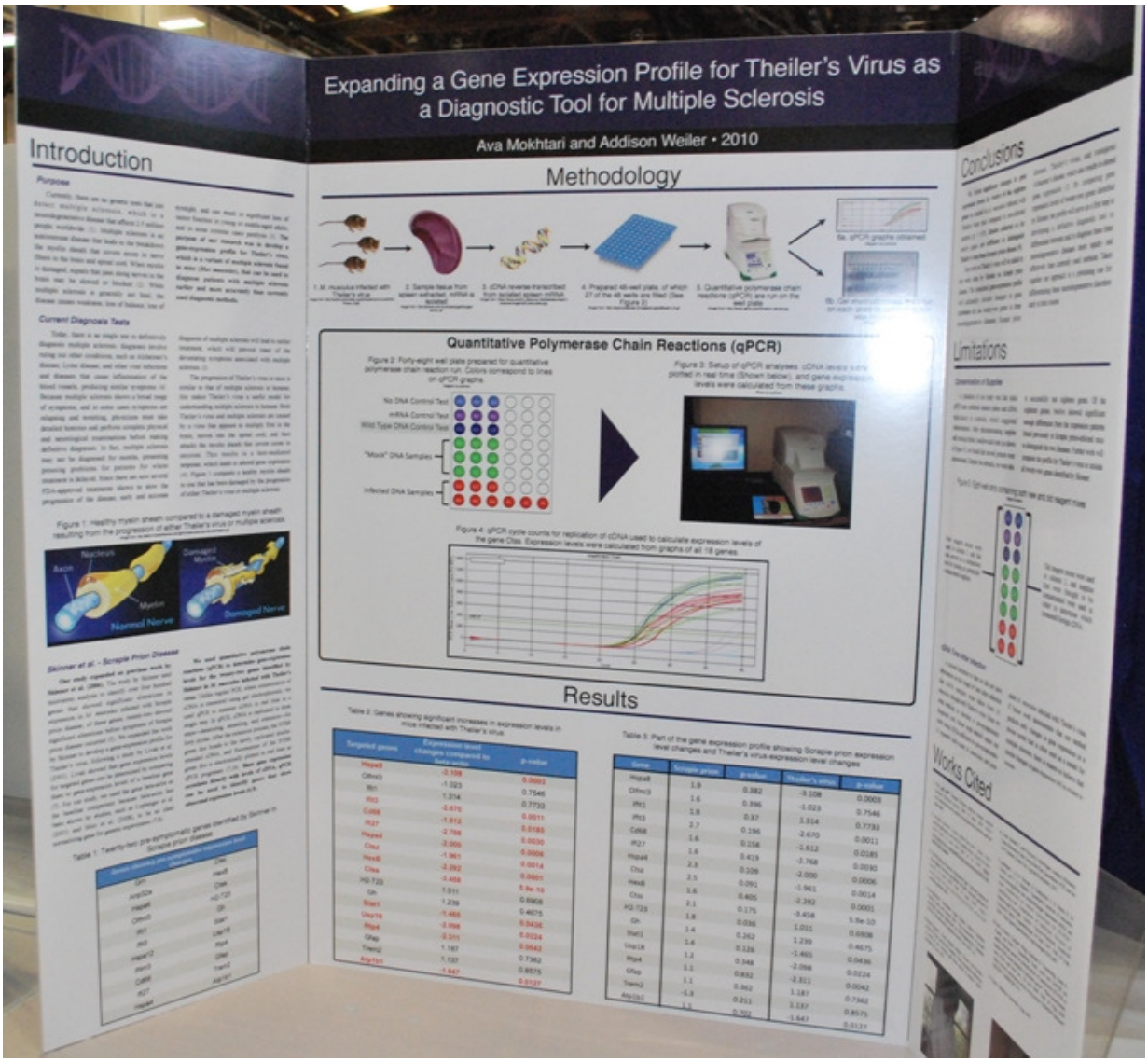
- Adam had an attractive color scheme of blue and red that he used consistently with his slides, arrows and even down to the cloth he used under his board!
- His use of lights really added to the board's visual appeal.
- He has a model of what he built, which really helps with communication
- Note that his slides are passed on the board in straight lines, but bunched in groups of including slides of different sizes. Our eye actually prefers that break from monotony.
- Notice also that he has his abstract off to the side in a photo frame.

Example #6



This board was designed with a layout that allows the reader to flow logically from the Introduction and Background, read the Purpose and Hypothesis, study the Methodology, review the Results and then learn from the Discussion, Sources of Error, Future Work and Conclusions. This example also does a good job of integrating a series of diagrams and images throughout. By breaking the text into a two-column format, this student does make it easier for someone to read. They could possibly enhance review of what they've written by using bulleted lists, but instead he has chosen is to highlight certain statements by bolding the text.

Example #7

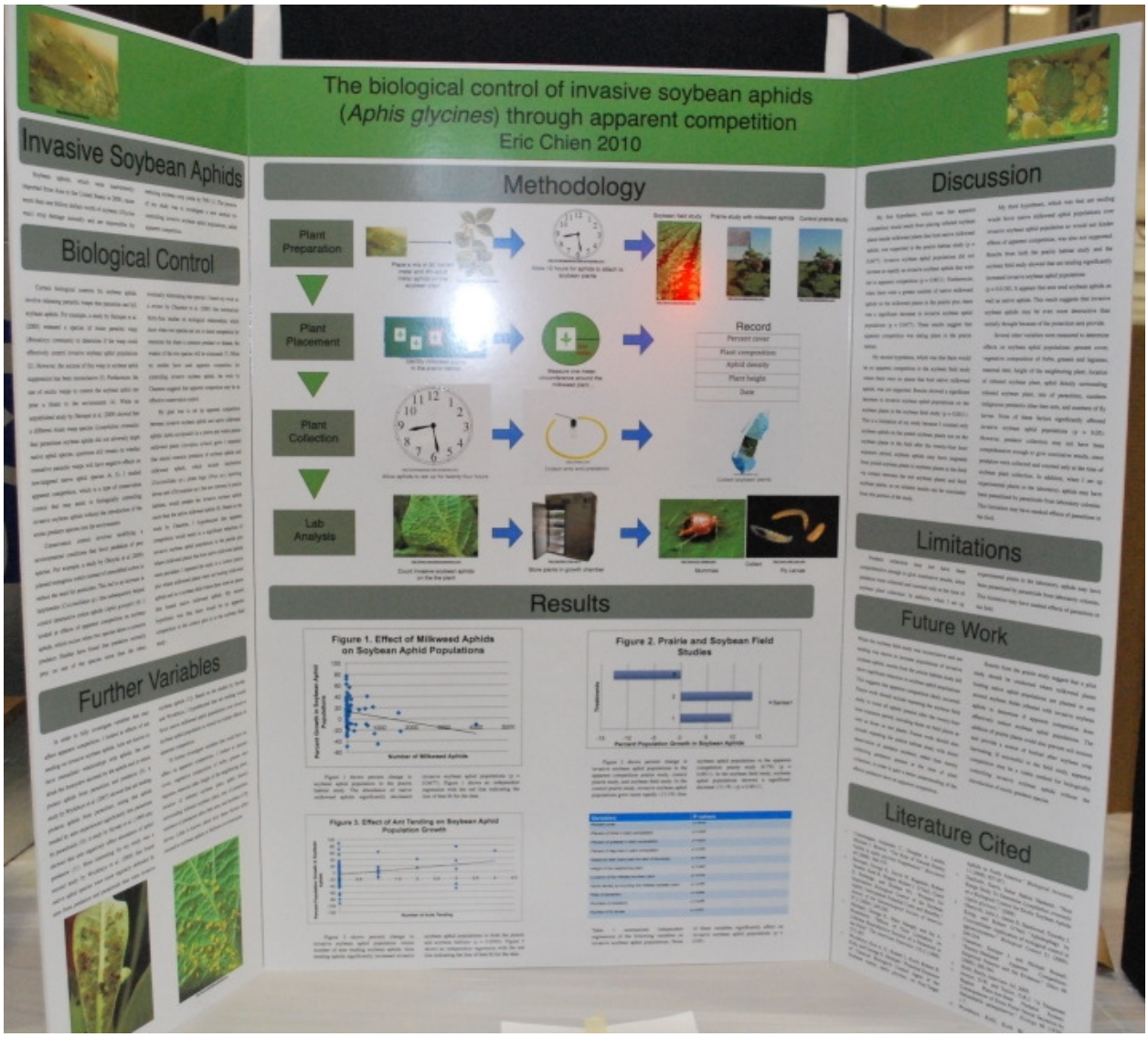


This board was created by a team. Their Methodology and Results are especially clear and easy to read. I really like how they have laid out their Methods using visual tools and arrows, helping their audience to feel an increased understanding of what their project was. Another thing they've done to make their board more interesting is that they've woven a theme into their title board that relates to their project. Their project deals with gene expression and they've used a DNA strand on their title board

Example #8

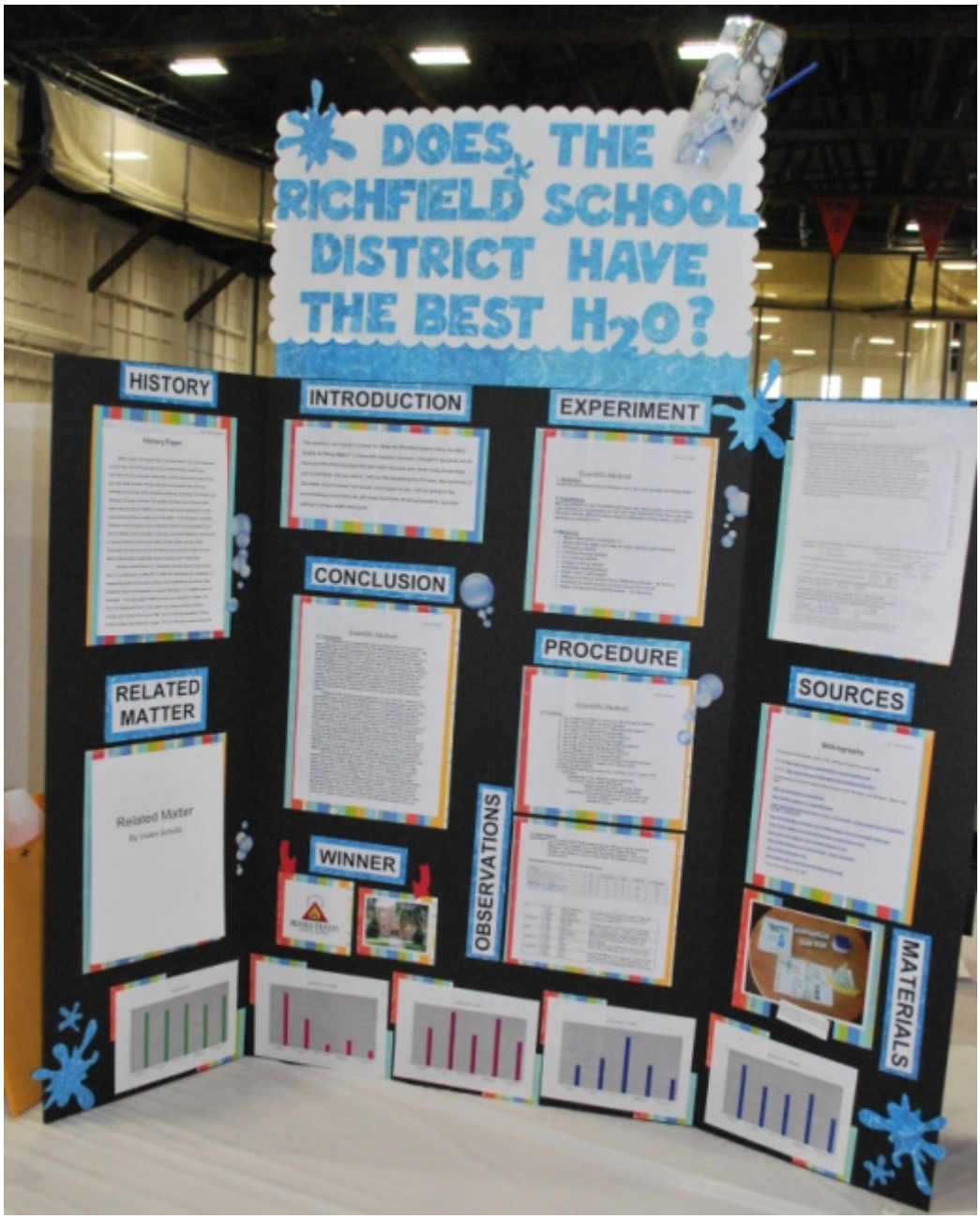
This student chose a nice color scheme that complimented her photos of vegetation very nicely. She uses many photos to articulate her work and make her research seem active. The use of arrows and photos in the Methods section also provide clarity. Throughout the board, the flow of information is logical and easy to read and navigate. While she has quite a bit of text, it doesn't seem overwhelming.

Example #9



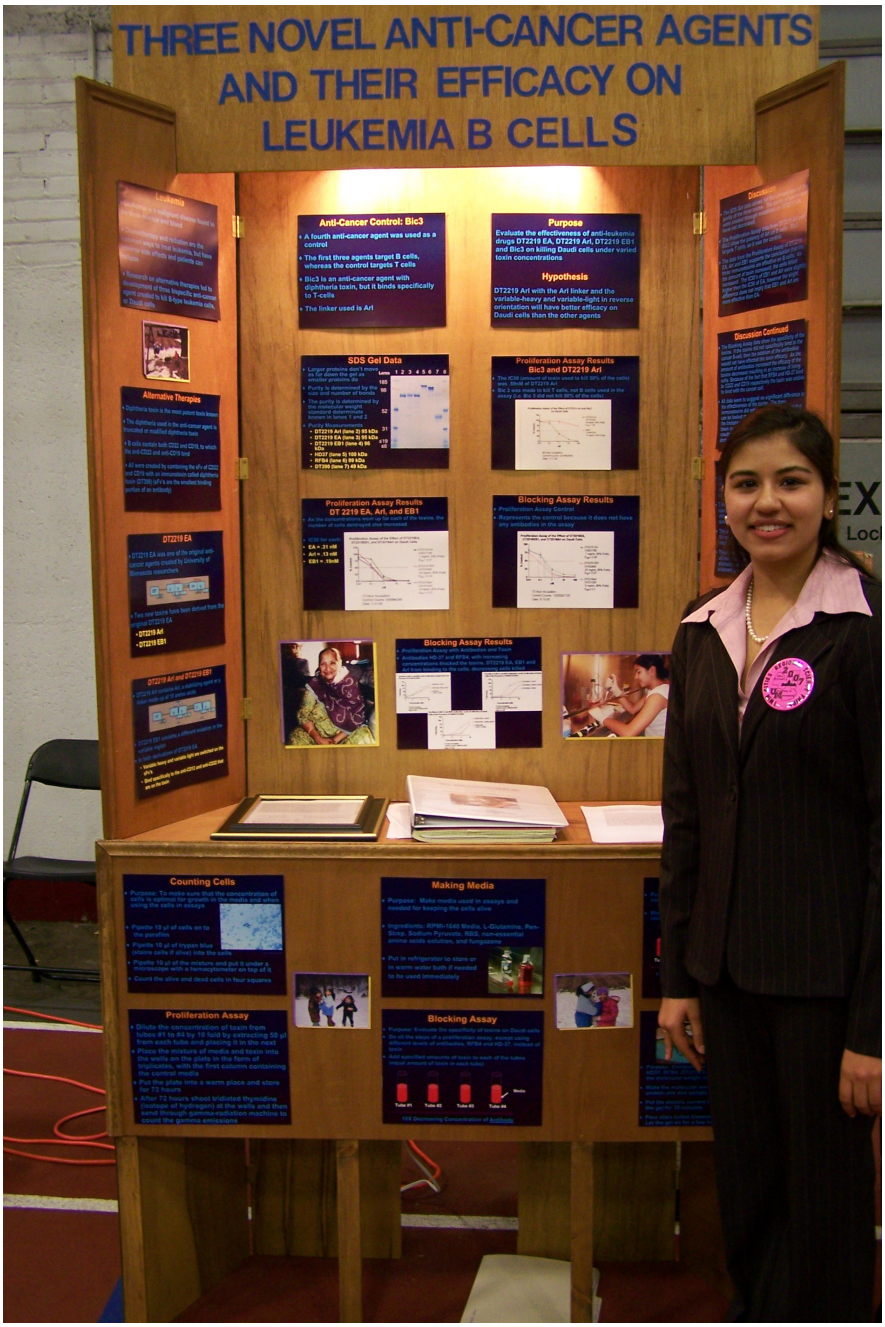
This student also considered their images and topic when choosing his colors. The green on his title board flows nicely from the green in the images he took. I also like that he put photos on his title board itself. What is normally boring space that students often don't use he has utilized and those photos help to tie the board together. Like many of the previous examples, he's done well at using photos, images and arrows to explain the process of his Methods. Things he could've done differently would have been to use brighter or more prominent colors in his Results section to make that work stand out. He also has a bit too much text, which can almost sap a judge's energy when looking at all that information.

Example #10



This board is very creative. The reason I've chosen to include it as an example is because the student used water droplet images and put them all around the board. They used a consistent image in the dead space. I have seen other students do that as well, and it is a really effective tool. Consider whether you have something like that you could use strategically in 3-5 place throughout your board.

Example #11



This student, Ummul Kathawalla, was in SciMent and went to ISEF. Her board is unlike any of the others you've seen in that it is free-standing (i.e. it doesn't use the table). She has slides that were placed on a wooden board. Notice her use of lights and photos. It is very attractive and easy to read and follow. At the Fair, students and adults alike were drawn to it because of its visual appeal and clarity.

Example #12

This student, Akash Kumar, is also a former SciMent student. There are a few things I really like about Akash's board:

- He used Power Point for his slides, but he has a gradation of color in the background. That is slightly unique and attractive. The colors he chose also complement his photos.
- He uses arrows in the middle of his board to link his Methods with his Results. It's a very effective communication tool.
- His slides are staggered. In some cases Methods (on the left) link to two or more Results slides. And his results are a combination of text, images, graphs and tables.
- Lastly, I love how his tie matches is board color!

Example #13


Efficiency Study of a Head Controlled Computer Interface Using Embedded Circuitry
by Gavin Ovsak
Background
Purpose
Hypothesis
Goals
Control
Psychology
People
Practice
Measurements
Sources of Error
Test
Analysis
Conclusion
Future Plans
Real World Testing
Software
Features
Improvements

This student is Gavin Ovsak (SciMent 2010 and 2011). His board is very creative in a couple ways:

- He has built it so that his laptop is displayed in the middle of his board. He uses that to effectively show a video to judges, helping support his explanation of his work.
- The front of his board is at an angle, making it easier to read and to allow more surface area on which he can communicate his project.
- Both of these things make his project presentation very unique. That uniqueness helps to set him apart from others.
- Make note of his use of lights. They are both behind the title board and anchored on both sides of his board on the top and middle.
- See that he used a series of photos on his title board, and he also uses red construction paper cut at an angle to make his title board more interesting. Often students leave the title board as dead space, whereas there are creative things you can do with that space.
- Lastly, see that his abstract and copies of it are available vertically on the right side of his board in a clear plastic holder.