

CCC SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH PROJECT FAIR

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Clackamas Community College

Area	Time	Room
Project Set Up	9:00 – 9:30am	McLoughlin 206
Project Judging	9:45-10:45am	McLoughlin 206
Project Critique and Awards	11:00am-Noon	McLoughlin 206

Participants in the **CCC Social Sciences Research Project Fair** will choose a topic within the academic disciplines taught in the Clackamas Community College Social Sciences Department. These are: **Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Religion, Sociology and Women’s Studies.** *Project topics must fall clearly within one or more of these academic disciplines.* Once a topic is chosen, a participant will research that topic and present the research and conclusions in the form of a tabletop exhibit to be judged by members of the CCC Social Sciences Department faculty. *Research and exhibit preparation must be certified as having been done by the participant without substantive assistance from teachers, parents, or others.*

Research Projects give participants an opportunity to explore a topic in the social sciences and to learn, practice and perfect research skills that can be used to make informed decisions in both academic and daily life. Relevant skills include:

- Critical thinking and analysis
- How to define a question or problem
- How to gather and organize information and data
- How to evaluate information and use it to reach meaningful conclusions

The CCC Social Sciences Research Project Fair is limited to the first 35 registrants.

Guidelines for projects, pictures and titles of sample projects, and a copy of the judges’ review form are available from your school Skills Day Coordinator or from the CCC Social Sciences Department (see contact information at the top of this page).

Individual Tuition Waivers Awarded: First, Second, Third Places. *Judges’ decisions are final.*

Various additional prizes to be awarded as available.

CCC SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH PROJECT FAIR EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

The process of developing a good poster panel exhibit is similar to that required in writing a good research paper. **Review a good guide to writing research papers for hints.**

Here is the sequence we'd like for you to follow for this project:

- **Select a topic within the scope of the academic disciplines which make up the social sciences.** At CCC, these are: anthropology, economics, geography, history, philosophy, political science, psychology, religious studies, sociology and women's studies. The topic you select must fall within the scope of one or more of these disciplines.
- Write a brief thesis statement that identifies your specific topic and indicates what you hope to say about it and how you will gather and analyze data or information to draw conclusions about your topic *It's not enough to simply say you want to do a project on such and such a topic. You need to have thought it through enough and done enough preliminary research to show that there is adequate source material available for your topic, and you must clearly indicate what you want to say about the topic and why it is important and relevant to the social sciences.* Your thesis statement should help you organize your research and keep on target.
- **Carry out library and internet research.** Broaden or narrow the topic as needed. Consult with your teachers, especially if you find yourself straying from your thesis statement. **Sources should include "professional" works, such as books by scholars in a relevant social science discipline, articles in relevant professional journals and websites with content by relevant professional scholars (usually limited to .gov or .edu URLs).** Talk with your teachers if you're unsure about the adequacy of particular sources.
- **Make an outline** to be sure you have the story you want to tell clearly in hand. Have someone not involved in the project read your outline to see if it makes sense.
- **Sketch the layout for your exhibit.** Gather illustrative materials (maps, photos, drawings, graphs, charts, etc.) Figure out exactly how to display text and illustrations to make the greatest graphic impact and tell a clear story. Use different type sizes to highlight key points. Use color and pattern carefully to emphasize important material and direct the viewers' eyes. Avoid clutter. The biggest design error is using type size that is too small. Exhibits are usually seen from three or more feet away. Therefore, use larger type than if you were writing

a term paper. The *smallest* you should use is 18 or 20 point type. Be sure you have an eye-catching heading or title. Strive for an interesting balance between text and illustrative material.

- **Bring your finished project to McLoughlin 206 on the campus of Clackamas Community College between 9:00 and 9:30am on the date of the Skills Day competition. At that time, you will set up your exhibit for judging. Return to McLoughlin 206 at 11:00am for project critiques by the judges and awarding of prizes.**

Some helpful hints about this project:

- **Be sure to cite sources in your poster panel exhibit just as you would in a research paper.** Include a bibliography as part of your exhibit. If the list is a long one, fasten it to the back of the exhibit. Use one of the standard academic formats for citing sources.
- **You may want to have a handout** to accompany the exhibit, but avoid loose, three-dimensional objects. Also, don't include valuables, antiques or heirloom objects from home. If showing such things is important to the story you're telling, make photographs or drawings.
- **The exhibit itself must fit on a tabletop space** no more than about four feet wide by two feet deep. Height should be no more than about 3 feet. You can buy poster panels for exhibits at places such as office and art supply stores, or you can make your own.
- **Be sure to put your name on your project *in a place where the judges can find it.***
- ***Begin early and work steadily on this project!***

TITLES OF SAMPLE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH FAIR PROJECTS

These are just a few examples of the kinds of projects students have undertaken in Social Science Fairs throughout the United States. They are not necessarily ideal project topics, and represent only a sampling of the range of topics you might explore. Of course, each of these topics could be addressed well or poorly in an individual research project!

“Social Security: Will It Be There for Our Retirement?”

“I Am Homeless: Where Can I Get Help?”

“Citizenship: Can You Pass the Test?”

“Pricing Trends in the Retail Market”

“What is Ramadan? What Happens During Ramadan and Why?”

“What is Nike’s History and Economic Impact on Oregon?”

“The Soul of the Samurai”

“Venice, Italy vs. the Adriatic Sea”

“The Civilian Conservation Corps in Oregon”

“Teenage Spending Habits”

“Was the South Justified in Seceding From the Union?”

“NASA Technology—Down to Earth”

“Origins of Mummification”

“West Nile Virus and Public Health”

“Mardi Gras”

“How Successful Have Land Reform Programs Been in Zimbabwe?”

“How has Title IX Funding Affected Men’s and Women’s Sports?”

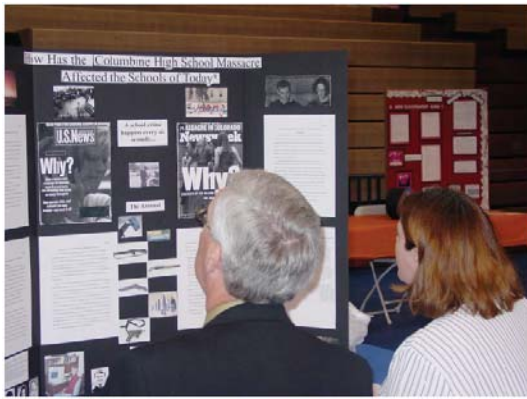
“How Many People Can Identify the Continents?”

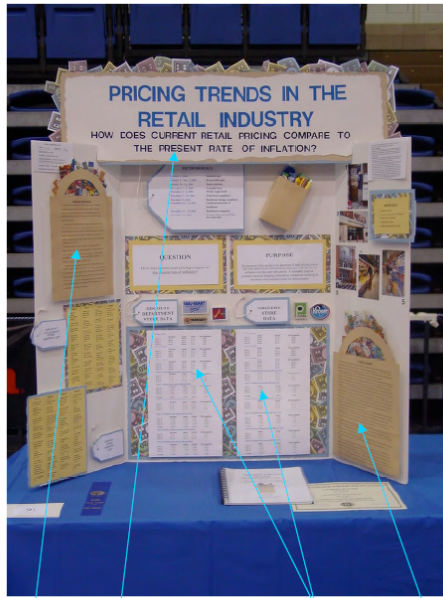
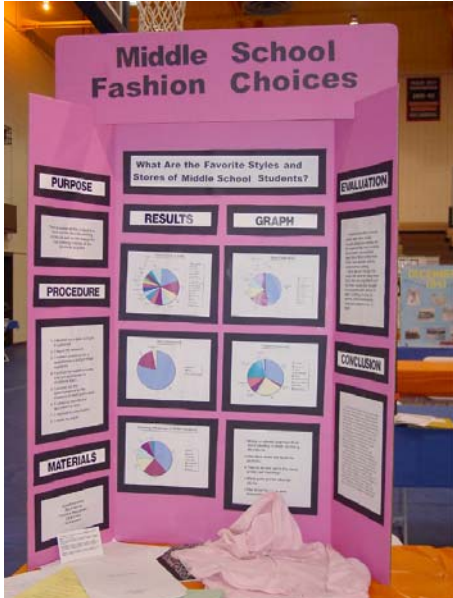
“Can Public Schools Offer Fast Food as a Healthy Alternative Lunch?”

“What Damage, if Any, Is Human Interaction Doing to the Great Barrier Reef?”

“Spotted Owls and Timber Towns in the Pacific Northwest”

“How Did Sociopolitical Conditions in the 1960s Impact Popular Music?”





Methodology Question/Problem Statement Data/Illustrations Conclusions



Methodology	Question or Problem Statement	Conclusion(s)
(Also graphs, charts, illustrations related to the project question/purpose)	(Also graphs, charts, illustrations related to the project question/purpose)	(Also graphs, charts, illustrations related to the project question/purpose)

PROJECT BOARD

**CCC HIGH SCHOOL SKILLS DAY 2009
SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH PROJECT FAIR**

JUDGES' SCORING SHEET

1. Statement of Question or Problem Being Explored (10 points) **Judges please
circle score**

The project includes a/an:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| a. question or problem that is clearly stated | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| b. question or problem is original or explores some new aspect of the topic | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| c. question or problem is neither too broad nor too limited in scope | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| d. question or problem addresses a significant local, state, national or international topic in the social sciences | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| e. written abstract which concisely states project title, question or problem being explored, methodology, and conclusions or findings | 2 | 1 | 0 |

Section Total Points

2. Methodology and Social Sciences Content (20 points)

The project shows:

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. in-depth investigation of adequate and reliable sources | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| b. sufficient data or information upon which to base conclusions | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| c. evidence of application of social sciences research skills (such as gathering and interpreting data, interpreting maps, graphs, and charts) | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| d. relevance of data or information to question or problem | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| e. evidence of interpretation or analysis of data to draw conclusions | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

Section Total Points

3. Visual Exhibit (20 points)

**Judges please
circle score**

The visual exhibit includes/demonstrates:

a. question or problem	2	1	0
b. methodology	2	1	0
c. conclusion or findings	2	1	0
d. bibliography of data or information supporting the conclusion or findings	2	1	0
e. appropriate choice of format for presentation	2	1	0
f. logical and graphically pleasing presentation	2	1	0
g. conscientious workmanship—accuracy, neatness, and craftsmanship	2	1	0
h. creativity or originality in construction, layout, and presentation	2	1	0
i. exhibit within size limits specified	2	1	0
j. correct spelling, punctuation and grammar	2	1	0

Section Total Points

GRAND TOTAL POINTS

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

Student's Name _____

Title of Exhibit: _____

Social Science Discipline or Disciplines: _____

High School: _____

Advising Teacher's Name: _____