DOCUMENT 7: TEMPLATE FOR RESEARCH PLAN FOR PROJECTS

NAME:

INITIAL PROJECT TOPIC:

INITIAL EXPO CATEGORY:

Delete this and all instructions in textboxes once you have completed your research plan.

- This plan shows how you intend to do your project so it is written in the future tense i.e. before you actually do your project.
- When typing up your research plan, keep all the headings and subheadings given below.
- You need to be sure that your project is ethical – for more information on ethics consult the Expo Guide book on the Expo website: www.exposcience.co.za.
- The length of your research plan should be between 2 - 4 pages long.

Question or Problem being addressed:

Write an introductory statement which gives the focus question you asked or states the problem being addressed and explains the purpose of investigating the topic.
You should briefly refer to your background reading/literature search here.

Engineering Goals (for engineering projects) or Hypothesis (for all other projects):

Engineering goals are a description of the device or design that you plan to make, that the judges can compare to what you actually eventually made, to see how well you addressed the problem that you identified.
Hypothesis stated correctly according to the scientific method and including both independent and dependent variables.

Variables listed or requirements listed that the design needs:

*For scientific method projects list variables: list independent, dependent and at least 3 controlled/fixed variables
*For engineering projects list the requirements that the design needs: try this link for more information
http://www.sciencebuddies.org/engineering-design-process/engineering-design-requirements.shtml

Procedures (method):

Detailed description of the method or procedures that will answer the question you asked or test the hypothesis or solve the problem. Do not include: work done by a mentor (such as surgical procedures), acknowledgements, work done by a university lab or work done prior to your involvement in your project.
Do not give details about the materials used.

Data Analysis:

Describe the procedures you will use to analyse the data that answers the research question or hypothesis (scientific method projects).
In the case of an engineering project, describe the procedures you will use to analyse the data in a way that demonstrates that you have successfully met the engineering goals.

Bibliography:

List the five most important references (e.g. science journal articles, books, internet sites) that you used to get information about your topic and that you will refer to in your introduction above.
Check this site to ensure that you reference your sources correctly:

OR
Click on Reference in the toolbar in “Word”. Click Insert Citation and choose your source eg a webpage or journal or book and fill in the information. Add citation and then add bibliography.

Teacher’s/mentor’s comment:

Teacher’s/mentor’s signature and date:
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