

THIS WEEK'S "PROJECT POTENCY" FOR THE 2019 CALVARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SCIENCE SHOWCASE-

THE REWARD OF RECALL: YOUR LOGBOOK SHOWS YOU MEAN BUSINESS!

Often scientific investigation can be categorized as either experimental or observational. Both are relevant and vital to good science. Each has its own benefits and restrictions.

Experimental Science is what we commonly think of when we think about real science. This includes beakers and bottles; charts and graphs; lab coats and wild hair; and madness in a laboratory. Our science projects would typically be included here as well.

Observational science, on the other hand is a little more illusive to the eye; but no less important. It includes careful observation, notes, non- interference and much, much patience (years, decades, centuries). Jane Goodall and her work with chimpanzees is a well- known example of this. This work is more beneficial in studies of things like populations, climate, and survey- based data. Naturalists also do a lot of work this way.

But one thing both types of scientists require is a high- quality LOG BOOK. The logbook is absolutely vital to the investigative process. The log book allows reflection and evaluation. It can reveal variables that should be addressed in future investigation, not previously considered. It shows by means of review and collaboration that the investigation was given its "due diligence". And most of all- it's a tangible, touchable, interactive reminiscence of all your hard work!

Be thorough in your logbook. Write everything you see, hear, smell or feel in specific, measureable descriptions. Make sure you include dates, times & other relevant information (light, temperatures, counts, etc.). Record your procedures and actual data AT THE TIME OF THE PROCEDURE, not scribbled on scraps of paper or entered later. Clearly, the need for patience is implied here. All actions need to be thought out ahead of time, deliberate, organized and immediate. You will be judged less on neatness and more on quality of content in this particular facet of your science project.

Use your computer to research what makes a good logbook on sites like http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/printable_project_logbook.pdfⁱ
Your logbook is an integral part of your project. Doing it well will reap plenty of intellectual reward for your project now and when you look back on it when you are older. Good Luck!

Mr. B, 12/3/18

ⁱ Retrieved from http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/printable_project_logbook.pdf, 1/9/16