



## (Lower Primary and Primary divisions)

The class experimental research project provides the opportunity for a class to engage in experimental research of greater scope than would be possible within the experimental research section of the competition. This could be achieved by choosing to investigate a hypothesis in great depth or a set of linked hypotheses.

1. This section is for Lower Primary (Prep – 3) and Primary (4 – 6) students only. There is a maximum of 8 entries per school for each of these sections.
2. The project **must** be based around the investigation of a hypothesis (question) through experimental research.
3. All students listed within the class entry must be involved in the project.
4. The topic or theme is unrestricted **however**, students will be judged on:
  - the level of student involvement in the decision-making
  - the scientific skills and knowledge gained by the students
  - the quality of the science within the project
  - the ability to extend their learning and knowledge beyond the science class room
  - the originality and creativity of the topic.
5. A representative group of 4 to 6 students will need to present the class project on the Judging Day.
6. **Country entrants** are strongly encouraged to attend the Judging Day. Country entrants who cannot attend the Judging Day are required to record a 5 minute video presentation answering the questions listed in the oral presentation section of the guidelines. This should be sent along with their entry. **Please notify STAV via email that you will not be attending the Judging day.**
7. The class needs to be clearly identified eg. Victoria Primary School -Year 1, Class XXX
8. A complete bibliography must be included along with acknowledgment of any assistance from teachers and other adults. See page 23 of handbook for directions on referencing and layout.

### Entry guidelines

The class project consists of three parts. **You must do all three parts:**

- The written scientific experimental research report
- Evidence of class involvement
- An oral presentation on Judging Day (or a video for country entrants).

Each part should be presented according to the following guidelines:

[Class projects are not eligible for entry into BHP Billiton Science Awards.]

### Scientific Research Report

The research and written report must follow the guidelines for 'Writing an experimental research report' Lower Primary and Primary Division found on page 10 of this STS handbook.

- The report must be stapled or bound together with a cover or in a manila folder. **No loose paper or paper inside plastic sleeves will be judged. The Yellow Face Sheet must be firmly attached to the front cover.**
- Bibliography and acknowledgment list for the whole project should be attached to the back of the Scientific Research Report.

### Evidence of Class Involvement

Evidence must demonstrate the participation of the class, and assist the children attending the oral presentation to explain the scientific learning that has taken place.

#### All evidence must be the work of the children.

Evidence may include:

- Children's experimental notes, drawings and diagrams.
- Photographic poster
- Model
- Products of the experimental investigation

The evidence must be easily transportable and easily carried by no more than three of the students.

Evidence must be easily managed by the students during the oral presentation.

If you are using a computer program/DVD as part of providing evidence you must provide your own laptop and ensure the students can run it independently without adult assistance.

Any assistance that the children receive in producing and compiling the evidence must be clearly acknowledged.

### Oral Presentation

- This will occur on Judging Day and a small group of 4 – 6 children representing the class need to attend and present their entire project at a designated time. The STS section co-ordinator will advise the time.
- Children will be asked questions about their project to demonstrate their understanding. The questions may include but are not limited to:
  1. How did your class choose the topic of your experimental research?
  2. What decisions did your class have to make during the experimental research?
  3. What science have you learnt from doing this research project?
  4. When doing experimental research what important skills must you use?
  5. What else have you learnt from doing this research project?
  6. How was the workload distributed amongst the members of your class?

Metropolitan schools must take their projects to Judging Day at Santa Maria College, Northcote with their group representatives on Saturday 11 August 2012. **Schools with Class Project entries will be contacted prior to judging day and be allocated a judging time.**