

Experimental Research – Junior

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The increase in numbers of students entering this section has been encouraging. Experimental research is very much the work of a scientist. A broad range of topics for research were presented but some of the true and tried experiments again dominated the themes – such as plant growth investigations.

Students should be encouraged to look at topics that solve a problem as this can then produce a creative twist to a topic. The main concepts of experimental design should be reinforced – these include investigate the effects of one variable at a time, recognizing the importance of controls, to collect objective data (generally that involves measurement) and the need to do multiple trials of an experiment to ensure consistency of results. Another area of focus could include work on introductions. This requires some research into a topic with explanations of key terms and concepts. Some students would discuss results without clearly explaining key scientific concepts and ideas.

Students receiving bursaries are to be congratulated on their great work and we encourage them in the pursuit of improving their scientific investigation skills.