

# Designing Your STEM Project Display

#betterSTEMposter

You've done so much work on your project...now it's time to share it with others!

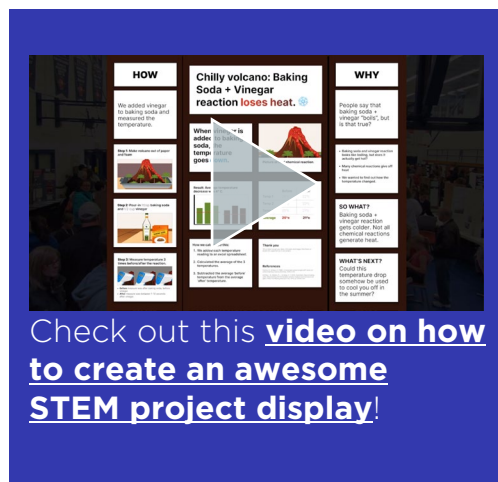
## When making your STEM project display, there are two main goals:

1. It gives you the info **you** need when presenting your project to teachers or judges. Include the main info, graphs and diagrams that will help you present.
2. Share your results with others. Make it easy for people (teachers, judges, fellow students, members of public) who look at your display to understand the main info from your project.

Here are some tips and tricks to help you design a display that stands out, and is easy for viewers to read and understand:

### Do:

- Make it easy – get started with the **STEM Project Display Template** on mySTEMspace
- Keep text to a minimum – follow the word limits in the template.
- Tell a story – What inspired you to do your project? Why is it important? How did you do your project? What were your results? Why are your results important? And what are your next steps? Answering all of these questions is a great way to tell the story of your project to viewers.
- Make text as large as possible – make the short 'takeaway' sentence larger than other text to make it easy to read the main points of your project.
- Use large images, and only the graphs and charts that show your most important results. Put extra info you *might* refer to with a teacher or judge in a binder or logbook.
  - For images and Use images/diagrams that help to tell your project story – make sure each one is labelled (e.g. Figure 1 – Description; Table 1 – Description)
- Thank those who helped you with your project – it is important to acknowledge the support you received.
- List your references – this can be done in a much smaller font than the rest of the display.
- Ask friends, family, teachers, and others to look over your display:
  - Is it clear? Can they understand the result of your project in 5 seconds?
  - Is there space for your eye to 'rest'? Is it too busy with images and text?
  - Are there spelling or grammatical errors?
- Finally, make your poster your own! The template and suggestions provided are optional and are meant to help you get started, but make sure you change the colours, images and layout to best showcase your project!



### Don't:

- Use too much text – it becomes hard to read and understand main points. Extra information or data can always be in a separate binder or logbook that you can refer to when presenting.
- Display raw data on your poster. This is data you haven't done anything to – just raw measurements/observations. For example, instead of showing each measurement you took of a growing bean plant, keep that raw data in your logbook, and instead show a graph of the overall growth. This shows the same data, but in a format where people can understand it clearly and see trends in your results.
- Use photos or graphics you haven't referenced properly – always give credit for any photos or graphics you didn't create yourself!
  - In addition, all of your photos, diagrams, tables, and graphs should be labelled (e.g. Figure 1 – Description; Table 1 – Description)
- Forget to proofread – spelling and grammatical errors can be caught when you take the time to carefully look it over!

### Additional suggestions:

- Looking for images to enhance your poster? Check out these sites with free-to-use images and diagrams:
  - Biological diagrams - [biorender.com](http://biorender.com)
  - Chemical diagrams - [molview.org](http://molview.org)
  - Lab tool diagrams - [chemix.org](http://chemix.org)
  - Icons - [thenounproject.com](http://thenounproject.com)
  - Photos (there are lots of sites to choose from!) - [pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com)

### FAQ

#### How do I sum up my project in one sentence for the takeaway statement?

Think about the most important thing you discovered from your project. What is the one thing or the main finding that you want people to learn in five seconds of looking at your poster? This is what you want to share in large text as the takeaway statement, so it is eye-catching and easy for viewers to read.

#### How do I know what to put on my display?

Some good questions to ask yourself about each thing you add to your display: Does this help me tell the story of my project? Does this explain the most important part of my project? If the answer is a clear “Yes!”, then add it to your display. If the answer is, “No”, keep that information and content in your logbook, but not on your poster. If you're unsure, ask a teacher or mentor for advice, but remember: less is more!