

Virtual Science Fair through Blogging Grade 6-8

Overview	Students will have the opportunity to create a virtual science fair project by posting their work on the blogging website, Xanga, rather than having a formal demonstration.
Objectives	Following the scientific method, students will be expected to complete a complete science experiment and will post their research, hypothesis, observations, data, results, and conclusions on a classroom Xanga blog.
Standards	6.1 Students design investigations. They use computers and other technology to collect and analyze data; they explain findings and can relate how they conduct investigations to how the scientific enterprise functions as a whole. Students understand that technology has allowed humans to do many things, yet it cannot always provide solutions to our needs. 8.2 Students use computers to organize and compare information. They perform calculations and determine the appropriate units for the answers. They weigh the evidence for or against an argument, as well as the logic of the conclusions.
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will provide their own materials for the science experiment - Access to a computer outside of class - Access to a computer in school for final posting to the blog - Camera (for visual representation on the web)
Procedure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The class should first cover all of the basics of the scientific method. 2. Students can work individually or in pairs and should be expected to research possible project topics. 3. After selecting a strong topic, students should complete the experiment and keep track of all their information through notes and photos. 4. Students should use Microsoft Word to type all of their research, results, etc. 5. During class computer lab time, students/pairs should copy and paste all of their information to the class blog on Xanga to create an online "science fair."
Evaluation	Students will be evaluated on their ability to successfully incorporate all of the components of the scientific method into their experiment and how carefully they perform and record their information (through notes, pictures, blog posting).