



## Science Fair Timeline 2008-2009

### **Week of February 2nd - Select Topic**

When teaching Topic, we also refer to this as the Statement of the Problem. It must be in the form of a question. For example, "Does Gender Affect Your Sense of Smell?" I use a non-example of "Boys Smell". The non-example is not in the form of a question, and although it is a fun title, it does not state the purpose of my experiment. If I want to include a fun and creative an example is: The Nose Knows: Does Gender Affect Your Sense of Smell"

To include a **Thinking Map**, you can have your students use the **circle map** to ascertain what they already know about the topic.

### **Week of February 9th - Research and formulate Hypothesis (Florida Writes-February 10<sup>th</sup>)**

A hypothesis must include an if/then statement. It is easiest to do this after researching a bit. When modeling my smell experiment, we learn that the part of the brain connected to smell and memory (the limbic portion) is larger in girls than in boys. Now I can guess that females would have the advantage when it comes to their sense of smell. (Or, as my girls always put it....Girls smell better than boys!) Your Background Research only has to be a paragraph or two. You don't need many pages of research. To include a **thinking map**, you could use a **bubble map**. The experiment should only have one variable. To describe simply one variable, you could use the **Bubble Map**.

### **Week of February 23rd - Gather Materials, Design Experiment**

Here, you'll be writing your materials and procedure. Both can be done in list form. For the procedure, you could use a **Flow Map** to show the phases of the experiment.

### **Weeks of March 2nd - Complete Experiment (FCAT March 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>)**

Remember, experiments need to be repeated three times to test for validity. You can include a **Multi-Flow Thinking Map** to show the causes and effects of each particular experiment. Students will also need a data chart. This can be hand created, or done using a computer. If you are going to use a computer, I suggest having students on laptops while your laptop is plugged in to the TV so they can go along and create the chart with you. This section also includes recording of observations, which can be anything that students notice during the actual experiment.

### **Week of March 16th - Conclusion**

Here, you must state if your hypothesis was proven correct or incorrect. Have students use their data to prove their hypothesis.

### **Weeks of March 23rd- April 3rd - Complete Board**

### **Science Fair Night – May 6**

The projects will be displayed in the hallway. Students and parents are invited to PTA's ice cream social and to view the projects.