



10 Tips for Designing Your Heritage Fairs Project:

How your project looks is a very important part of your presentation! You have done a lot of research and you have a story to tell. Your project needs to help you tell that story.

1. **Make sure that the design is yours!** Do what you want and do as much as possible by yourself. Sometimes, your parents might want to help a lot - Heritage Fairs is fun! But please remind them that this needs to be *your* project. (Your parents, brothers & sisters, and friends can give you suggestions and can help a little bit with building models.)
2. **Use more than just words on a backboard!** Include photos, pictures, maps, etc. Build a model and/or include artefacts, and make use of the whole space that you have. (4'x3' or 120cm x 90cm)
3. **Make your project colourful!** Even if you are using black & white photos, still include colour such as bright lettering, maps, and other decorations. If you are going to stick with black and white because it suits your topic, make it stand out in other ways, like contrasting letters and using patterns.
4. **Put information on your backboard!** Make sure there are *some* words on your backboard so that when you are not at your project, visitors can still learn about your topic. This information can also help you in your presentation if you are stuck.
5. **Use big letters!** Make sure that most judges and visitors do not have to lean over into your project to read it. (Remember that people have varying levels of vision.)
6. **Keep it simple!** Simple designs work well if they convey the topic and help you give your presentation. Remember that no matter how amazing your display is, your presentation is the most important part of the project.
7. **Remember your Works Cited and Photo Credits section!** It does not have to go on your backboard and can go on the table. Use your backboard for information about your project. (Photo credits can also be in small letters underneath the photographs.)
8. **Use your digital media elements if you have them!** Make sure to use videos, slideshows, games, music, etc., that you created for your project in your actual presentation so that the judges know what wonderful work you did! Also, have a back-up plan in case your computer or tablet has problems. Make sure to remember to bring any chargers and cords that you might need.
9. **Design your project in separate pieces!** That way, it will be easier to transport to and from school.
10. **Have a back-up plan if part of your project breaks or goes missing!** Make sure you can still do your presentation. Do not worry if your project does not end up looking like you imagined it.

There is only ONE absolute rule: Your project can be only 4 feet wide! This includes all parts of your display. You can make a tall display (as high as the ceiling if supported) and your display can go all the way to the floor. You can use the space in front of your project as long as you and one other person can stand there comfortably. Model-making is fun and we have had many amazing projects, some of which have been wider/longer than 4 feet in the past. But there is not enough room at the Regional and Provincial Fairs for all students to have extra space. Please keep your display to less than 4 feet wide so that we do not have to ask to you leave any part of it at home!