**Writing Your Science Fair Conclusions**

**Due Monday, January 2nd**

The Conclusions section is your opportunity to interpret your data. In the Data Analysis, you organized your raw data into graphs or charts in order to more clearly represent the trends and patterns in your data. Now you will explain those data.

Basically, your Conclusions section answers the question, “What do all of these data mean?”

Conclusions must include:

* A summary of the data
* Claims based on data
	+ When making claims (i.e., “Plants grow best under condition X”), you need to specifically reference the piece of data that supports the claim (i.e., “Figure 1 clearly indicates that condition X plants had a significantly faster growth rate than other plants”).
* Explain why you found what you found
	+ This means in-text citations! You may use MLA style. If you are more comfortable with APA you may use that instead, but be consistent. Chicago citation style is not appropriate for this project.
	+ If you found that your plants grew significantly better under a particular condition, you need to do your best to explain why that is the case. This means going back to your original research and maybe doing some additional research.
* Tell your audience why it matters

There is no one correct way to set up your Conclusions section, but if you are stuck, consider using the following outline:

1. Summarize the data you represented in your Data Analysis
	1. In paragraph format, describe each chart/graph/table and why each is significant to your project
	2. Depending on your data, it may be appropriate to have a separate paragraph for each chart/graph/table
2. Claim #1
	1. Clearly state claim
	2. Indicate the specific evidence for your claim
	3. Explain why you got this result—use research to support
3. Claim #2—same as Claim #1
4. Claim #3—same as Claim #1 and Claim #2
5. When you have finished making claims, conclude the entire section by explaining why these results are important/relevant/meaningful. Answer the question: “So what?”