**Science Fair Research Paper—65 points**

**Due on Tuesday, January 24th**

**Title Page /2**

Project title, your name, partner(s)’s name(s), class, school

**Table of Contents /2**

All sections listed with correct page numbers

**Abstract /5**

Revised abstract

**Introduction /10**

Problem/question being investigated, background information (supported by

in-text citations from research), hypothesis. Everything should be in paragraph form.

**Materials and Methods /10**

Materials may be listed and methods (procedure) can be in bullet/numbered steps format. No citations necessary **unless** you used a source to develop your methods or modeled your procedure on a published procedure.

**Results /10**

Data presented in clearly labeled, appropriate, and meaningful graphs and/or charts (the work you did for the Data Analysis)

Must be computer generated. All graphs, charts, or tables need appropriate titles, axes labels, etc.

**Conclusions /10**

Written summary of the data, make appropriate claims supported by data and explained with cited research, explain relevance of project and any potential applications

**Error Analysis /5**

Explore any sources of error present in your experiment with clear explanations of how/why these could have caused errors. Suggest modifications—what would you do differently if you could do it again?

**Works Cited /5**

All cited sources are included and are in proper MLA format

**Reflection /5**

Comment on the overall science fair experience. Was it positive or negative? Did you enjoy it or was it stressful? Do you feel learned anything from your experience? If so, what? If you could give advice for next year’s Bio GT students concerning science fair, what would it be? Is there anything you would have liked your teacher to do differently concerning science fair?

**Comments on Formatting, Style, and Grading**

* **Personal pronouns**First person pronouns are permitted in the Abstract and in the Error Analysis but should be used sparingly. The Reflection should be written in first person. All other sections are **strictly** third person.
* **Contractions**Don’t use them anywhere.
* **MLA Style**All students have chosen to use MLA Style guidelines for the paper. Please use MLA Style for your header and page number (Last Name # in the top right of each page), your in-text citations, and your Works Cited page. If you do not own an MLA Handbook and have not had much experience with MLA in other courses, please go online and consult the Purdue OWL website. If specific style/format questions arise as you work feel free to ask me. You are allowed to use online resources for auto-formatting your Works Cited entries, but keep in mind that these may or may not be accurate. If your Works Cited entries are not properly formatted you will be penalized **regardless** of whether you used an auto-formatting site.
* **Section Headings**Use clearly defined section headings at the beginning of each section of the paper. You should also begin each section on a new page, even if the previous section ended halfway down a page.
* **Grading**All sections will be graded for thoroughness and style (style includes proper formatting and correct grammar). Your writing needs to be both clear and logical. The research you include in your paper needs to be discussed so that the connection between the source and your project is both reasonable and unambiguous. All claims should be logical and supported by data. Suggested applications need to be realistic. If there is a serious issue in your procedure or with your results, then that needs to be addressed in the Error Analysis.
* **Feedback on drafts**I realize that most of you do not have significant experience in science writing. I will give you feedback on any drafts of any sections of the paper that are submitted to me **prior** to January 23rd. This means that in order to get feedback from me on a draft, I need a copy of it no later than midnight on January 22nd.