

Hypothesis Due DECEMBER 15, 2011 – 4th Grade

DECEMBER 16, 2011 – 5th Grade

What is a hypothesis? It is a prediction written in a clear, concise manner about what you think will happen in your project. A good hypothesis will provide direction for your project and will help to keep your investigation focused. A hypothesis is to be stated simply and concisely. It is critical for your project and must be testable. Ultimately you will accept or reject your hypothesis.

Keep your hypothesis simple and concise, not too broad. Avoid using words like all, never, and sometimes. These words are too vague and will result in too much information to sort through when conducting your research.

If you are having a hard time writing a hypothesis, simplify the topic area. For example: maybe the question you want to answer in your project is, “Can fish learn?” It would be very hard to test all fish. A more simple idea would be, “Goldfish can learn.” Therefore, you would be able to draw specific conclusions about only goldfish and not all fish.

Here are some examples of hypotheses that are written as statements. These are known as research hypotheses. It is best to state the hypothesis as a factual statement then try to prove it.

- Temperatures will affect the growth of crystals.
- Hydrogen can be used as a fuel.
- Hamsters are color blind.

It is also acceptable to write the hypothesis as a question. Many first time science students use this style.

- What causes optical illusions?
- How does music affect the growth of plants?
- How much acid is in soft drinks?

You can start your hypothesis off like this:

“I predict that if I _____,” then _____ will happen.”