**Science Fair Project 2012**

***Phase II: Conducting Background Research***

\*FOR THIS PHASE OF THE PROJECT YOU WILL BE WORKING INDIVIDUALLY TO CONDUCT YOUR OWN RESEARCH \*

In this phase of the project you will be conducting the background research that will set the foundation for your experiment.

This phase will be conducted in two stages in itself:

1. Gathering background information
2. Synthesizing and summarizing that information into a typed report.

Part A: Gathering Background Information

In this stage you will use multiple resources to develop your background knowledge on the underlying concepts of your research project.

For Part A, you will do the following:

1. Come up with **3-5**  questions about your topic.

* *Ex: If your experimental/engineering question is “What material(s) would make the best artificial skin?” you could ask the following 3 questions:*
  + *What is skin made of?*
  + *What are the functions of skin?*
  + *Of what types of material is prosthetic skin made?*

1. Gather research/information in answer to the three sub-questions using a variety of sources. For this part, you WILL:
   1. Need to find **at least THREE** *reliable* resources for **EACH** question.
   2. Need to take notes, ***synthesizing*** the research/information you find in answer to the questions.
      * ***For each question you should have a at least ONE page of typed notes.*** (3 pages in total)
      * I **DO NOT** want to see any copy and pasted information.
      * YOUR NOTES MUST BE IN YOUR **OWN** WORDS!!! (I can tell the difference when they are not. If your notes are not in your own words, I will consider that plagiarism and there will be consequences).

Part B: Synthesizing Background Research into a Research Report

In this stage, you will **write a 5-paragraph research report**, WITH A THESIS STATEMENT, that will serve as the “background research” component of your project/lab report.

For this part, you will be synthesizing all the information you found into one logical, engaging essay. Further details for this essay component will be provided to you.

**Due Dates**

\**Due dates are subject to change\**

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| *Assignment* | *Date Due* |
| * 3-5 research questions about topic | **December 17, 2012** |
| * Research notes | **January 14th, 2013** |
| * Completed Research Report Essay | **January 22nd, 2013** |