

CARLISLE AREA SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Carlisle Area Science Advisory Committee (CASAC) promotes, enriches, and expands science and science education in the Carlisle area. As part of that obligation we are constantly analyzing our current practices and making changes to best meet the needs of our schools and community. Beginning with the 2013/2014 school year we will be including the use of a Science Project Log Book as part of a Science Fair project for grades 4 – 12.

A Science Project Log Book is a detailed account of every phase of the project, from the beginning to the end. It is proof that certain activities occurred during specific times. In the scientific world, journals and logbooks are subject to scrutiny by the scientific community and are acceptable evidence in a court of law.

A Science Project Log Book should:

- Demonstrate you completed the work
- Be an anecdotal record/log book of your experiment
- Include the rough draft of your observations and data recordings
- Be in chronological order

Steps you could follow:

1. **Find a durable three ringed binder or black and white composition book**, typically a lined journal works great.
2. **Label your logbook** with your name and school's name on the back of your binder/book. This is a permanent record of all of your activities associated with your project.
3. **Number the pages in your logbook before using it**, unless they are already numbered for you.
4. **Always date every entry**, just like a journal. Entries should be brief and concise. Full sentences are not required.

5. **Don't worry about neatness.** It's a personal record of your work. Do not re-do your logbook because it looks sloppy. Think of the logbook as your "Dear Diary" for science fair. It's not just for recording data during the experimental phase of your project and it's not just for your teacher.

6. **Use it regularly and write down everything,** even if it seems insignificant, it could later be extremely useful.

7. **Include any and all observations made during your experiment.** In other words, record ALL data directly in your logbook.

The CASAC rubric will also be changed, to reflect the use of a Science Project Log Book. The originality category will be changed from a possible total of 10 points to 4 points. The category for the log book will be added to include a possible 6 points. Those points will be based on having a log book, being numbered chronologically, includes data and observations, correlates to the project, and is legible (can be read by others).