

What are Quality References???

Quality references should be one of the following:

- 1) An article/paper in a peer-reviewed journal that describes previous research in the field.
- 2) An article/paper which describes basic facts about components used in the experiment such as:
 - a) Chemical compositions of substances used
 - b) Principles of physics which are applicable to the experiment
 - c) Data analysis
- 3) An article/paper which describes the operation of equipment used in the experiment and how to interpret the results obtained by using that equipment.
- 4) An article/paper which describes the safety concerns with components used in the experiment.
- 5) Reports from reputable scientific agencies such as CDC, NIH and EPA.

Quality references are not:

- 1) A website that the student used to select his/her experiment.
- 2) A website that was used to purchase chemicals or other equipment for use in the project.
- 3) Non-peer-reviewed articles which have dubious scientific information.

Some examples of websites which are NOT considered to be quality references and should NOT be used as references in the student's Project Plan. This is NOT a comprehensive list.

- Wikipedia
- Science Buddies (sciencebuddies.org)
- Encyclopedia Britannica (www.britannica.com)
- Sciencing (sciencing.com)
- YouTube (YouTube.com)
- Study (study.com)
- Cool Science Experiments (coolscienceexperimentsshq.com)
- Explorable (explorable.com)
- Readers Digest (www.rd.com)
- How Stuff Works (howstuffworks.com)
- How Chimp (howchimp.com)

Some of these websites may have summaries of other quality references. The student use the original article referenced as their source.

For access to hundreds of high-quality scientific sources, go to www.wlnonline.org/PRSEF.