



# Science Fair *Career Shadow* (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

## Targets for an Excellent Science Fair Project

	<b>Advanced Proficient 5</b>	<b>“TRANSLATED”</b>
<b>Letter to Mentor</b>	Introduction letter thanks the mentor and introduces the student to mentor clearly explaining relevant skills and interests that the student brings to the shadow. Provides a clear presentation of the purpose of the shadow.	Write a polite letter to a professional adult asking if you may shadow them at their work. Explain why you are interested.
<b>Research</b> <i>(double points)</i> <b>x2</b>	Cites four or more sources of information about the occupation observed, using at least three types of information resources. Makes clear and well-elaborated connections to the reason for selecting the planned shadow in the student's own words.	Research the career thoroughly. Connect the research to your interest in this career.
<b>Log</b> <i>(double points)</i> <b>x2</b>	Detailed notes chronicling each hour of the job shadow give details that clearly describe the experience. The log records more than ten hours of shadowing, verified by the mentor's signature.	Keep track of the time you spend shadowing. Write down everything you do and new things you learn.
<b>Interview</b> <i>(double points)</i> <b>x2</b>	Student summarizes responses to at least 10 questions, four of which are student-developed, to give a clear picture of many aspects of the occupation and the mentor's experience in it.	Prepare questions to ask the adult you shadow. Set up a time to ask your questions and record the responses.
<b>Reflection</b>	Reflection on the experience relates the shadow and the mentor's occupation to the student's temperament, talents, and future aspirations.	Think back on the career shadow. Explain how you might do in this career.
<b>Photo Journal</b>	Thorough photographic record of the job shadow, including one of the mentor with the student, provides an organized visual overview of the experience.	Take lots of pictures to record the experience.
<b>Visual Quality of Scrapbook / Display Board</b>	All parts of the assignment are neatly organized into a scrapbook or onto a display board that creatively draws the reader into the student's job shadow experience.	Make your project fun to look at with pictures and colors. Use large, clear lettering. Check grammar and spelling.

## Suggested Questions for *Career Shadow* Interview:

1. How long have you been doing this job?
2. What originally attracted you to this job?
3. What type(s) of schooling or other training did you have to do to be qualified for this job?
4. How do you stay on top of the most current research in this job?
5. Are there particular skills that are needed or come in handy in this occupation?
6. What do you find to be the most rewarding part of this job?
7. In this occupation, what types of situations or circumstances create stress?
8. What types of things have come as a surprise to you in this job?
9. How do subjects taught in middle and high school prepare me for a future in this field?
10. Is the way you practice this profession the only way this job is done? What other ways can it be done? What are the benefits of each?
11. What are the controversial issues involved in this profession? What are the different sides of each issue?