2026-2027 STEAM Fairs
Maker Division - Model Project Description & Rubric
Kindergarten – 5th Grade

Project Overview:

Scientists and designers use models to explain ideas and show how something works or is organized. For this project, create a model that demonstrates what you have learned about a topic. Use research, planning, and creativity to build and explain your model, and record your work in an engineering notebook.

Project Steps:

Keep track of each step in your Engineering Notebook. K-2 notebooks may include drawings, student writing, adult writing, and words dictated by the student.

1. Choose: Identify Your Model and Its Purpose
Choose what you would like to model. Explain what your model will show, why the topic is important, and why you chose it.

2. Research: Learn About Your Topic
Research your topic before you begin building. Record accurate facts, key vocabulary, important discoveries, and sources in your engineering notebook.

3. Imagine: Brainstorm Ideas
Think of several possible ways you could create your model. Use drawings, notes, diagrams, or material ideas to show your thinking.

4. Plan: Design Your Model
Choose the idea you want to create. Make a detailed plan showing what the model should look like, the materials you will need, and the steps you will follow.

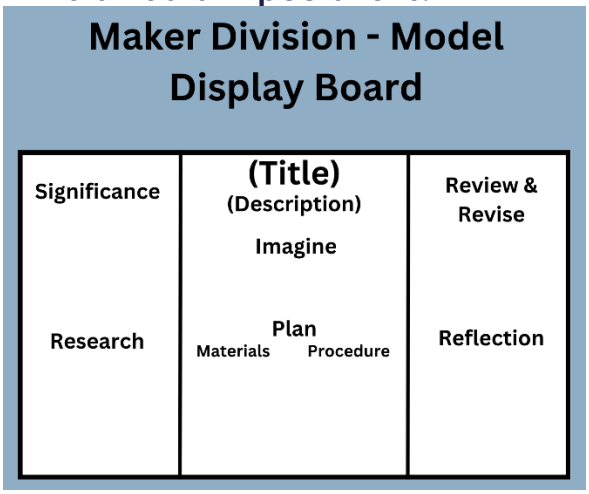
5. Create: Build Your Model
Build and label your model using your plan. Apply elements of art such as line, shape, color, texture, form, space, and value when appropriate to make your model accurate, functional, and visually engaging.

6. Review & Revise: Check Your Model
Review your model as you build to make sure the parts work together and accurately represent your topic. Compare your model to what you learned through research and make changes when needed. Record important revisions or improvements in your engineering notebook.

7. Reflect: Think About Your Learning
Explain what you learned while researching, planning, and building your model. Describe challenges you experienced, changes you made, and anything you would do differently next time.

8. Prepare & Practice Your Presentation
Organize your tri-fold board or digital presentation so others can easily understand your model, research, process, and learning. Be prepared to explain your model and answer questions about your work.

Tri-Fold Board Expectations:



Display boards may be a maximum of 36 inches high by 48 inches wide, must be a tri-fold board, and must stand on their own.

Engineering Notebook Expectations:

- Significance of Model
- Research notes
- Citations from research
- Sketches from planning
- Material lists
- Procedures for building
- Reflection

Students may create a digital presentation instead of a tri-fold board. The presentation should clearly show the same project information required on the tri-fold board, including the significance of the model, research, planning, model creation, revisions, and reflection.

Updated August 2026

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Student Names:		Grade:		Sequence #:	
Teacher's Name		Project Title:			

Category	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaching	Beginning
Title & Description (5)	**5** Creative, clear title and strong description of the model's purpose	**4** Clear title and short description	**2-3** Title or description is incomplete or unclear	**0-1** No title or description
Significance of Model (5)	**5** Clearly explains why the model is important and why others should care	**4** Explains why the model is important	**2-3** Gives a simple or vague reason	**0-1** No explanation of importance
Research (5)	**5** Includes several accurate facts, key words, and discoveries; shows strong understanding	**4** Includes some accurate facts and key words	**2-3** Includes few facts; some may be unclear or incomplete	**0-1** Little or no research provided
Engineering Notebook (20)	**20** Notebook is complete with detailed notes and drawings. sketches demonstrate accuracy in shape, proportion, and detail, exploring light, shadow, and composition when appropriate	**15-19** Notebook has clear notes and some drawings/reflections; sketches show some accuracy	**10-14** Notebook has a few notes or is missing sections; sketches lack accuracy/detail	**0-9** Notebook is missing or almost empty
Imagine (10)	**10** Shows many creative ideas and materials considered; clear brainstorming	**8-9** Shows some ideas and materials; brainstorming is clear	**5-7** Shows only one or two ideas with little detail	**0-4** No brainstorming shown
Plan (10)	**10** Step-by-step plan with clear drawings/writing; easy for someone else to follow	**8-9** Plan is evident but missing some steps or drawings.	**5-7** Plan is missing steps or details	**0-4** Plan is missing or unclear
Create & Build (20)	**20** Model is neat, well-built, labeled, and accurate; pictures/drawings show process; students skillfully apply elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, form, space, value) to make the model both functional and visually appealing; design shows originality	**15-19** Model is complete, mostly neat, and labeled; some elements of art are used effectively	**10-14** Model is incomplete, messy, or missing labels; minimal use of artistic elements	**0-9** Model not built or missing most parts; no attention to visual/artistic quality
Review, Revise, & Reflect (10)	**10** Model is reviewed and revised as needed; strong reflection explains what worked, what did not, and surprises	**8-9** Model is reviewed and revised; reflection explains what was learned	**5-7** Model is reviewed or revised but reflection is unclear or missing details	**0-4** No review or revisions evident and/or reflection shown
Presentation (Trifold or PowerPoint) (10)	**10** Presentation is neat, complete, and easy to follow; students explain project confidently	**8-9** Presentation is neat and complete	**5-7** Presentation is missing some parts or hard to follow	**0-4** Presentation is unclear or incomplete
Artistic Expression (5)	**5** Student skillfully integrates elements of art throughout the project; originality and creativity make the work both functional and visually engaging	**4** Student includes some elements of art with clear effort toward visual appeal	**2-3** Minimal effort toward artistic quality; little evidence of elements of art	**0-1** No attempt to use artistic elements

****Students/Teachers are to complete the top portion of this form and make sure it is attached to the STEAM Fair project for judges to reference, all scores are entered through the shared digital scoring form.****

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