

SAB Lecture 1

Introduction to Science Fair and Finding
Topics



How We Got Interested In Science Fair



How To Find A Topic

- Look into science news! (<https://www.sciencenews.org>)
- What interests you in science?
 - Look into specific subfields of general topics that interest you
- What science skills do you have?
 - What are some general topics where you can apply those skills?
- How can you answer a question you have about the world? (application)



Covid-Friendly Topics

- Computational projects based on existing data sets
- Behavioral project that use online surveys to collect data
- Biological observation of enzymes and reactions using plant models
- Biology projects that use computer programs for analysis—biology concepts that do not require in-lab work
- Remember you don't always need a lab to complete an amazing project!!



Computational Biology

- For those pursuing biology projects, computational biology/bioinformatics is a good alternative during COVID times
- Computational biology refers to the utilization of algorithms and computer programs to analyze biological systems



Q&A With Past ISEF Participant: Divyam Goel

Who is Divyam?

Divyam Goel is an undergrad at the U working on designing and proposing a major in infectious diseases. He was, and is, an avid microbiology researcher and likes working on immunocompromised and host interactions.

His work in high school gave him a foundation which he used to pursue leadership roles in research journals, student body councils, and other organizations.

He currently works with oncology and chemical microbiology research groups and enjoys staying connected to the science fair community through his job as USEF's special awards and paperwork intern.