The Research Log

A research Log is a day to day record of all activities you did on your research project. It tells what was done, where it was done, how it was done, and when it was done.

It is PROOF of what you did!

Your Research Log Should:

* Be either a bound or spiral notebook (not loose leaf)
* Have your name, phone number, school name, and teacher name on the front cover
* Be written in ink, not pencil
* Every entry should be dated, note place, time , and exactly what you did
* Include your research of topic and the internet or in the library
* Give a synopsis (brief summary) of the literature you reviewed
* Include ideas that you thought of when you read the literature
* Your problem statement (stated as a questions) and your hypotheses (measurable predictions)
* A description of any equipment you used
* A detailed description of any equipment you built (include sizes, materials, etc.)
* Specific instructions for making solutions and/or media
* All of your raw data
* Additional observations during experimentation that are not part of your raw data (such as temperature, pressure, anything unusual that happened)
* A list of all contacts (scientists, engineer, etc.) with phone numbers, FAX, email, etc.
* Every entry (day) should be on a new page with a the date and time at the top of the page and place where work is done
* Include any specific precautions for chemicals used that require special care (you find this out from the MSDS sheet on each chemical)
* Include disposal (autoclaving) of cultures of microorganisms

As a general rule, if in doubt include it in a research log.