

Name: _____

3 Possible Problem Statements

A Problem Statement is the question that you are trying to find the answer to for your project. Often there is a cause/effect relationship to it. It is common for the problem to be a “What/If” type of question or a “How does ___ affect ___” question.

The problem has 2 parts: an independent variable and its effects on a dependent variable.

Examples:

How will the number of worms affect the growth of a plant? (I.V.=# of worms, DV=growth of plant)

Which type of packaging material is best for shipping a fragile item in a cardboard box? (I.V.=packaging material, D.V.=shipment of item in box)

Review your three topics of interest and select one.

Write 3 possible problem statements. When writing, consider if the problems are testable and how you can get data from them. Identify your independent and dependent variables. Give a brief explanation of how you could experiment on the problem and what kind of data you can gather.

Example:

Is there an advantage to using incandescent lights over fluorescent lighting to increase plant growth?

In this example, the student would grow several plants under incandescent lights and several others under fluorescent lights (independent variable). The data collected would be the amount of plant growth (dependent variable).

Problem Statement One:

Independent Variable:

Dependent Variable:

Summary:

Problem Statement Two:

Independent Variable:

Dependent Variable:

Summary:

Problem Statement Three:

Independent Variable:

Dependent Variable:

Summary: