Strategy #2-Experiments, Labs, and Projects – Using the Scientific Method

This strategy is not meant to replace the steps of the scientific method. I am not going to list the steps here, or go through each one. Instead, I suggest that you use these tips **alongside** the scientific method, NOT **instead of** it!

* Make sure you have a copy of the scientific method in front of you! This could be from your textbook, provided with an assignment, found in another book, or found online. If your teacher expects you to use a specific format, make sure that is the copy you have!
* Even if you’ve done a lot of experiments and think you know the scientific method well enough not to need the list of steps, it’s still good to have - you want to make sure you follow the steps in order and don’t forget anything!
* Read through the steps before beginning the experiment – and don’t forget about any specific instructions! Different projects may require different types or numbers of variables or trials, among other things. Read the specific instructions, whether on the assignment itself or provided by your teacher, **at each step** of the scientific method to make sure you do the experiment as designed and expected.
* This goes for recording results and interpreting outcomes, too. Follow any given directions for recording results and answer what is asked when interpreting them. Keeping the scientific method steps in front of you can help here, too- it can serve as a guide to help you know where to find answers in your collected data, and the explanations of the steps can give you hints about how to approach answering questions.