



## Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

## 2025 Individual Project Abstract Form

**Please print 2 copies of the completed form. Sign both copies, keep 1 for your notebook and submit 1 copy to your Regional Fair Director with your other paperwork.**

Title of Project: Is there really lead in tampons?

Finalist's Name: Violet Wunsch

School and City: Wiggins Middle School

Sponsor's Name: Roger Wunsch

Category: Biomedical & Health Sciences

Division: Junior (grades 6 - 8)

Abstract (250 words or less):

### Abstract:

The purpose of this project was to test how much lead can be seen in a tampon as it is claimed women get so sick because of lead in their tampon products. I hypothesized that 3 out of the 5 brands on tampons I was testing would have lead in them.

The experiment involved testing for lead by putting the tampons unraveled on a piece of paper towel and then spraying the spray on reagent onto the tampons. The deionized water was inside the bottle of spray on reagent. After the reagent was sprayed on, ambient lights were turned off and the tampon was placed under UV light. Observations were made with lead appearing to "glow".

My hypothesis ended up being correct. I believed that 3 out of the 5 brands would have lead in them, but I found out all 5 brands I had tested all had some amount of lead in them. So my data did support my original hypothesis. One of the brands of tampons had quite a bit more than the other brands. One brand had so little it was hard to tell if it had any or not.

These findings lead me to believe that many other brands of tampons might have some sort of amount of lead in them. These results just have me thinking about what goes on in the factories when the tampons are being made and why the tampons I had tested have lead in them.

*I hereby certify that the above statements are correct and the information provided in the Abstract is the result of one year's research. I also attest that the above properly reflects my own work.*

Finalist's Signature:

Date:

In addition, all students must complete the ISEF Student Checklist (1A), Research Plan, Approval Form (1B), and Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1), and any other ISEF forms required for this type of project. See the International Rules and Guidelines for form requirements. Return COPIES of all of these forms to your Regional Fair Director with you Finalist Verification/Permission Form. **A signed copy of this form must be included in your notebook.**