Suggestions for Teachers

Supporting Student Research
Writing the Science Fair Lab Report is often the most difficult part of the Science Fair project for students. This part of the process takes support from you, their science teacher. In this age of increased collaboration among teachers, please remember that your students also have English teachers and librarians that you might recruit to help you and your students.

The production of the Lab Report is a major paper including a short literature review on the topic on which the student chooses to do his or her research and experimentation. English teachers in your building may be open to allowing students to work on this paper as an English assignment, especially since it qualifies as an "explanatory essay incorporating narrative elements" in Common Core. You and your students may find their help immensely beneficial.

Setting Students up for Success and Creating Excitement
Dedicate at least one class period to go over your plans for the science fair project assignment, your expectations, and, most importantly, build excitement. Show some examples of quality displays that explain interesting projects. You can find many examples of great projects online.

Group Projects
Be careful if you decide to allow students to work together on the project. Group projects often are completed by only one person in the group and that becomes very clear on presentation day. Think about how you will prevent that or consider requiring all projects except the most labor-intensive ones be done individually.

Importance of the Lab Notebook
Consider making the number of points awarded for maintaining a thorough journal/notebook significant enough that a grade of "A" cannot be obtained without one. A quality notebook is absolutely essential if a project moves forward into regional competition.

Grading the Science Fair Project
How students are assessed on their project is entirely up to you. It is recommended that you provide the rubric you will be using to students at the beginning of the project.