

## Advice from Veteran DJ Teachers

### *From teachers to students:*

- “Enjoy the process and know at the end you completed a long-term project, even if you don’t win a prize these skills are necessary for you in the future and make you feel good about your ability to accomplish something that not every kid your age can do. Don’t be afraid to give or take advice and encouragement from other teams. Celebrate everybody’s success at the end of the process.”
- “Keep to the deadlines, even submit work early. Learn how to prioritize your time.”
- “Don’t make snap judgments about the data sets, look at the data several times and write a new question each time. Then start thinking about your project, but keep looking at the data and asking questions.”
- “Do it! You will gain knowledge of our local ecosystem, learn about how to analyze and report data, display and talk about data, and have the chance to represent your school and possibly win money!”
- “Don’t get caught up in the science, get caught up in the creativity.”
- “Check in with [your] teacher for guidance.”
- “You do not need to use all of the data.....find a question.”
- “Have fun with it.”
- “Don’t be intimidated by the examples. You’ll surprise yourself with the quality you will come up with!”
- “Do research on your topic. Do you want to talk about it? Do you think it’s important?”
- “Take your time interpreting the data, and write the first sections before making the creative project.”
- “You can totally do this!”

### *From teachers to teachers*

- “Help your students through each step one at a time as a group, allowing them to help and critique each other.”
- “Work with the students more on their report. Make them submit a rough draft to you for editing, even if they are upperclassmen.”
- “Maintain a process in which you can monitor student progress.”
- “Do some instructional lessons on how to analyze data and interpret data. Students need to learn about different types of graphs.”
- “Create hours where you can meet individually with students to help them get started. The initial time to investigate takes some TLC. Don’t make it required so it becomes like the science fair where parents get involved and do the project.”
- “Plan enough time to work with students on the project.”
- “Allow for plenty of time for student collaboration, require deep background research.”
- “Have students research topics more.”
- “Just do it, don’t worry that you don’t have all of the answers.”
- “Make dedicated appointments for seniors to attend class to discuss data analysis.”
- “Do it! But start the projects early enough in the year so students are still excited about it. By the middle of April, upperclassmen were checked out.”
- “Model beforehand with easier and more familiar data sets.”
- “Choose a few data sets for your students to research, especially in the middle school. That way you can provide the necessary assistance without making yourself too crazy.”
- “Try it!”