

School Science Fair

Judging Criteria

Project Topic/Idea

- Originality/Creativity
 - The student has done the project based on his/her interest; topic enabled him/her to learn or understand something he/she did not already know. The project is designed to answer the student's question and is not simply an experiment he/she found in a book. The project is age-appropriate.
- Background Research
 - The student has completed research that enables him/her to understand his/her question and the scientific principles involved.

Experimental Design

- Hypothesis
 - The student's hypothesis is logical and based on the preliminary research.
- Variables and Controls
 - The student has designed an experiment that will enable him/her to find the answer to his/her question. The student's materials and procedures are clearly stated.
 - *Independent variable (I.V.)* The single factor that was tested.
 - *Dependent variable (D.V.)* Although there is often more than one factor that responds or changes as a result of the independent variable, most elementary designs account for one.
 - *Constants Factors* in the experiment that were kept the same to ensure valid results.
 - *Experimental control* That portion of the experiment to which the independent variable was not applied, to ensure validity of data.

Project Results

- Data
 - The student has sufficient data to reliably answer his/her question. The data is presented in a form that is appropriate for analysis (data tables, graphs).

- Conclusions
 - The student has clearly determined that the data either supports the stated hypothesis or does not support the stated hypothesis.

Project Display

- Creativity
 - The student’s display is creative and attractive without being overly done with unnecessary graphics, borders, etc. that might detract from the project focus.
- Clarity
 - The student has communicated all steps in the experimental process in a clear, easy-to-follow way.
- Thoroughness
 - All steps of research and experimentation are evident on the display.

Scoring

Points	Description
5	Outstanding. The project is correct, thorough, logical, well-developed, creative, well-presented.
4	Well done. The project is mostly accurate. There is evidence of logical thinking and creativity.
3	Average. The project is generally accurate, though some errors and/or omissions may exist. Standard thinking and effort.
2	Low Average. The project shows some information and evidence of understanding, although sketchy. There are some errors present.
1	Attempted. The project is incomplete and errors are present. There is no evidence of understanding.
0	Non-existent.