



What Judges are Looking for in a Science Fair Project

1. Communication of Ideas 15 points

- In your opinion, will the average person understand what is displayed?
- Are labels and descriptions neatly yet briefly presented?
- Is there sensible progression of attention of the spectator across or through the display?
- Is this a reasonable experiment for a 5th grader?

2. Scientific thinking & Methodology 65 points

QUESTION (10 PTS), HYPOTHESIS (10 PTS), & PROCEDURE (20 PTS)

- Does the project include the basic steps in the scientific method?
- Is the question clear and understandable?
- Does the exhibit have organized procedures?
- Did the student plan well, observe and record data accurately, and maintain the basics of a controlled experiment?
- Are the methods or procedures appropriate?
- Did the designed experiment really test the hypothesis?
- Did the student explain what and why they think it would happen?
- How much of the work shows an original approach?
- Does the project reflect original and creative research?
- Was the research conducted properly?

RESULTS (10 PTS), AND CONCLUSION (15 PTS)

- Did the student make appropriate calculations and comparisons?
- Are the results presented as graphs, percentages, averages, etc?
- Are data Calculations, and conclusions visibly evident?
- Did the student reach a logical conclusion from the data gathered?
- Did the student relate the conclusions back to their hypothesis?
- Did the student consider alternate explanations or what to do differently?

3. Thoroughness of the Notebook 10 points

- How complete and clear is the notebook or journal?
- How Much time did the student spend on the bibliography and references?

4. Display Board 10 points

- Is the exhibit more attractive than others in the same field?
- How skilled is the handling, preparation, mounting and presentation?

At the lower grade levels, good printing and penmanship is just as good as work done on a computer. All projects should be judged on their scientific merit and not on computer skills. The higher the grade level, the more computer skills can and should be incorporated into the project, but again the project should be judged on its scientific merit.

*It is Perfectly Acceptable
If a First Grader's Project
Looks
Like a First Grader DID it!*