

RCSEF What to Expect During the Judging

Grade 4 and 5 students will set up their projects but will not participate in an interview with judges. Students in the junior division (grades 6-8) and senior division (grades 9-12) will meet with the judges and should expect the following:

1. You should prepare an oral summary of the important points of your project that you can present in no more than 60 seconds.
2. Following your summary, you may find it useful to prepare several short capsule descriptions of important aspects of your project. You know your project better than anyone, so you should have the best ideas of what is important. Prepare answers for such questions as "Where did you get the idea for this project?" "What is special or distinctive about your project?" "What is the next thing you would do with your results?" "What questions has your project now generated?" You might also explicitly prepare for the question you think the judges might ask.
3. If yours is a team project, one person should act as the team spokesman at the beginning and present the introductory oral summary. This summary should include the rationale for the project being a group, rather than an individual, enterprise, and how each member contributed. Each member of the group should be fully knowledgeable about the project and be prepared to then discuss his/her part.
4. Judges will initial a form by your project during the Fair. This is your record of your project's judges. Special Award judges may also judge your project; however they will not need to initial the form. Special Award judges are identified by a special name badge.

What Should You Expect The Judges To Do?

1. You should be interviewed by 2 to 5 different judges for your category that will spend about 8 minutes discussing your project with you. It is difficult to space these interviews equally, so do not get discouraged if there is a long wait between judges. Do not worry about comparing the number of your judges with your neighbors. You, or they, may be getting Special and Recognition Awards interviews.
2. Many judges prefer to learn about your project by asking questions. Be prepared for them to interrupt your presentation.

RCSEF Judging Criteria

Science Project Judging Criteria	Engineering Project Judging Criteria
<p>Research Question (10 pts.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clear and focused purpose b. Identifies contribution to field of study c. Testable using scientific methods 	<p>Research Problem (10 pts.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Description of a practical need or problem to be solved b. Definition of criteria for proposed solution c. Explanation of constraints
<p>Design and Methodology (15 pts.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Well-designed plan and data collection methods b. Variables and controls defined, appropriate and complete 	<p>Design and Methodology (15 pts.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Exploration of alternatives to answer a need or problem b. Identification of a solution. c. Development of a prototype/model
<p>Execution: Data Collection, Analysis and Interpretation (20 pts.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Systematic data collection and analysis b. Reproducibility of results c. Appropriate application of mathematical and statistical methods d. Sufficient data collected to support interpretation and conclusions/claim 	<p>Execution: Construction and Testing (20 pts.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prototype demonstrates intended design b. Prototype has been tested in multiple conditions/trials c. Prototype demonstrates engineering skill and completeness
<p>Creativity (20 pts.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Project demonstrates significant creativity in one or more of the above criteria 	<p>Creativity (20 pts.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Project demonstrates significant creativity in one or more of the above criteria
<p>Presentation Display (35 pts.)</p> <p>Poster – 10 pts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Logical organization of material b. Clarity of graphics and legends c. Supporting documentation displayed <p>Interview - 25 pts.</p> <p><i>NOTE: not applicable for Elementary (Grades 4 and 5) Division as those students are not interviewed</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clear, concise thoughtful response to questions b. Understanding of basic science relevant to project c. Understanding interpretation and limitations of results and conclusions d. Degree of independence in conducting project e. Recognition of potential impact in science, society, and/or economics f. Quality of ideas for further research g. For team projects, contributions to and understanding of project by all members 	<p>Presentation Display (35 pts.)</p> <p>Poster – 10 pts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Logical organization of material b. Clarity of graphics and legends c. Supporting documentation displayed <p>Interview - 25 pts.</p> <p><i>NOTE: not applicable for Elementary (Grades 4 and 5) Division as those students are not interviewed</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clear, concise thoughtful response to questions b. Understanding of basic engineering relevant to project c. Understanding interpretation and limitations of results and conclusions d. Degree of independence in conducting project e. Recognition of potential impact in science, society, and/or economics f. Quality of ideas for further research g. For team projects, contributions to and understanding of project by all members