



Science Fair

Preparation for Judging Site Fairs

Using the Rubric

The rubrics are divided into major criteria.

For each criterion, there are usually 2 to 5 "critical attributes".

For example:

CRITERION

Visual Quality of Display

CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES

- 1) appealing and neat
- 2) readable at appx. 2 feet
- 3) organized and clear
- 4) understandable visuals/models
- 5) few language/spelling errors

Each attribute is defined for the three levels of proficiency

1 (Partially Proficient) ≡ major, "show stopper" flaw or omission in one or more of the critical attributes

Rubric wording is "... or ... or ... is missing ..."

3 (Proficient) ≡ minor flaw or omission in one or more of the critical attributes

Rubric wording is "... and ... and ... are good."

5 (Advanced Proficient) ≡ no flaws in the critical attributes which are thoroughly completed with excellence and creativity

Rubric wording is "... and ... and ... are excellent."

When judging projects, assign only scores of 1, 3, or 5. Resist the temptation to give "4" or "3.5".

After judging each criterion, make sure to double the points for the indicated **(x2)** criteria. Add the points. The total will be between 10 and 50. All judges scores for the students will be averaged. In the event of a tie, all of the judges involved will decide the winner by discussion and vote.

Interviewing Students

Some Things to Look for When Interviewing Students:

- 1) connection of the project to the student's experiences and/or interests
- 2) that the project was a genuine learning opportunity for the student
- 3) how the research helped to form the hypothesis
- 4) how well the student connects their data to their conclusions

Some Things to Do to Help Students Do Their Best:

- * Get at eye level to the student. (Chairs should be available.)
- * Shake hands (and introduce yourself if they don't know you well).
- * Give a quick compliment to help break the ice. **"Oh, what a great board!"**
- * Nervous students may try to start reading their project board. To prevent this, start with something like, **"Tell me how you came up with this great idea."**
- * SMILE! Don't let your nervousness stop you from smiling. Relaxed students will do a better job of expressing their passion, interest, and understanding.

Problem <i>(Double Points)</i> (x2)
Preliminary Research
Hypothesis <i>(Double Points)</i> (x2)
Procedure & Materials
Results <i>(Double Points)</i> (x2)
Conclusions
Visual Quality of Display

Logistical Arrangements

- Each teacher needs to list their projects by Name, Title, Grade Level (or Course), and Rubric Type.
- With this information, your coordinator will be able to make sure each student receives the proper rubrics.
- At the school site fair, make sure each project has a copy of the appropriate rubric and several appropriate scoring sheets.