

What is a Judge's Job?

Question skillfully and thoroughly

Leave the student feeling positive about his/her accomplishments

Help the students learn something from the experience

Determine winners

Make sure every entrant is interviewed at least twice

***Information regarding your findings or conclusions must not be revealed to any one except other judges, teachers or administrators.**

***Please DO NOT score a student that you have worked with/mentored or have a close personal relationship.**

What to Consider

How well were the resources used

Not all projects are hypothesis driven or lend themselves to the use of controls

Hypothesis should be based on research and data not guessing

All things being equal originality is superior

Error analysis is important. What may have affected the outcome of the experiment?

What do the graphs show? Can the student explain?

Not a beauty contest, it is more important that the student understand the science of their project, not that their board be the most beautiful.

Asking Questions

The best tool in judging is the ability to ask questions and listen carefully to the answers.

Some sample questions might include:

- How did you come up with the idea for this project? What inspired you?
- What is the significance of this project to your life?
- What did you learn from your background search?
- What were your variables? Controls?
- How long did it take you to build the apparatus?
- Did you have help in building your apparatus?
- How did you build the apparatus?
- How did you make sure to run a fair (controlled) experiment?
- What were your significant findings (results)?
- What formulas did you use?
- Did your research match your results?
- How much time did it take to run the experiments?
- How many times did you run the experiment?
- Did you collect all of your data under the same conditions?
- What error might have affected your experiment?
- Do you think there is an application in industry for this knowledge?
- Were there any books/websites or experts that helped you do your analysis?
- Why did you choose this area of science?
- Do you want to go into the science field? What area?
- What new questions did your results suggest?
- What is the next experiment to do in continuing this study?