What Judges are Looking for in an Invention for Elementary & Middle Schools Teachers & Students

1. Originality
   • Does the display state whether this is an invention or innovation?
   • Does the display of the Invention represent original, creative, age-appropriate thought?
   • Is the invention a novel or unique solution to an identified need?

2. Research and Usefulness
   • Was sufficient time and effort used to research the subject?
   • Was sufficient time and effort given to see if this invention had already been invented?
   • Does the invention solve a problem or need — is it useful?
   • Does the invention have marketable value?

3. Building and Testing the Invention
   • Does the display show suitable and organized methods used to build and test the invention?
   • Did the student plan well, observe and record actions accurately?
   • Was the student’s invention design appropriate for the use intended?
   • Were the student’s methods and testing age-appropriate?
   • Did the student test the invention more than once?
   • Did the invention fill the original purpose — was it useful?

4. Thoroughness of the Invention Logbook
   • Is the logbook present?
   • Does the logbook contain a well-developed description of the student’s invention process?
   • Does the logbook contain drawings and descriptions of at least two different tests or two revisions to the initial idea?

5. Physical Display
   • Is the display more attractive than others in the same field?
   • Is there a clear progression from one invention step to another in the display?
   • Does the content on the display include the name of the invention, its function, operation and a list of materials/cost used for construction?
   • Does the content of the written description on the display clearly express the purpose of the invention and how it accomplishes its purpose — is it useful?
   • Is the written description complete and age-appropriate?
   • Does the work presented on the display board reflect what appears in the logbook?

6. Model/Illustration
   • Is the illustration or model complete, with all parts neatly labeled?
   • Is the illustration or model a clear, attractive, visual explanation of the invention?
   • Is the model an actual replica of the idea?