Beal Bank USA

Southern Nevada Regional Science & Engineering Fair

What Judges are Looking for in a Science Fair Project for Elementary & Middle Schools Teachers & Students

1. **Communication of Ideas:**
   - 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 the language used age-appropriate?

2. **Scientific Thinking & Methodology:**
   - Does the display include the basic steps in the scientific method?
   - Is the question clear and understandable?
   - Is the question creative, original and age-appropriate?
   - Does the display have a well-detailed hypothesis explaining what is expected and why?
   - Did the student spend a appropriate amount of time on the research (citations)?
   - Does the display have suitable and organized methods to test the hypothesis?
   - Are the methods creative, original and age-appropriate?
   - Did the student test the hypothesis more than once?
   - Did the student plan well, observe and record data accurately, and maintain the basics of a controlled experiment?
   - Did the designed experiment really test the hypothesis?
   - Does the project reflect original and creative research?
   - Was the research conducted properly?

2. **Results and Conclusion:**
   - Did the student make appropriate calculations and comparisons of the data?
   - Are the results presented as tables, graphs, averages percentages, etc?
   - Are data calculations and conclusions visibly evident in the display?
   - Did the student reach a logical conclusion from the data gathered?
   - Is the conclusion age-appropriate?
   - Did the student relate the conclusions back to their hypothesis?
   - Did the student consider alternate explanations or what to do differently?

4. **Thoroughness of the Science Project Logbook:**
   - Is the logbook present?
   - How complete and clear is the logbook?
   - Does the work presented on the display board reflect what appears in the logbook?

5. **Physical Display:**
   - Is the exhibit more attractive than others in the same field?
   - Is there a clear progression from one step in the Scientific Method to the next?
   - How skilled is the handling, preparation, mounting and presentation?
   - Is this skill demonstrated age-appropriate?
   - If an IRB form was required, was it attached to the back of the Display Board?

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.

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