

North Museum Science & Engineering Fair Judging Rubric

The following rubric is to be used for a category judge to compare different projects. This will provide a relative score that cannot be directly compared to scores ranked by other judges. This form only serves to give a single judge a means of comparing the projects that they personally review. When all category judges meet as a group, they collectively decide which projects are merited as the top projects in each specific category. The 1st place category projects are contenders for the NMSEF champions awards.

Students should be judged on a 100 point scale as follows:

Scientific Thought (45%)

- Is this an original project or approach to the project design, or is it a duplication of an existing approach or experiment?
- Are there a sufficient number of samples?
- Are variables adequately controlled?
- Does the project offer new insights or solutions to a problem?
- Is a novel technology used? Is there a potential commercial or human benefit?

Display (20%)

Skill (10%)

- Is work neat and carefully done?
- Is lettering clear?
- Are colors strong and suitable?
- Is the layout complete, logical and self-explanatory?
- Is the content clearly and logically presented?

Dramatic Value (10%)

- Is the display simple and visually balanced?
- Does it capture attention?
- Does it have impact?
- Is there good balance and use of contrast?
- Do the backboards, table and all displays meld together?

Notebook/Work Journal (10%)

- Is the notebook clean, concise and neat?
- Is it different from the backboard display?
- Is it well organized?
- Is there a journal summarizing actual work, noting both successes and failures?
- Is there a bibliography?
- There should be no acknowledgements in the notebook or abstract.

Abstract (5%)

- Is the abstract present?
- Does the abstract cover all aspects of the project?
- Is the information concise, complete and accurate?
- Is the abstract well written? (grammar, syntax and spelling)

Interview (20%)

- Is the student sure of the material or process of the project?
- Can the student answer questions posed about the project?
- Can the student summarize the project adequately?

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Display (20%) _____
Notebook (10%) _____
Abstract (5%) _____
Interview (20%) _____
TOTAL _____

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