



A brief guide to ISEF Judging

DISQUALIFICATION

Projects with a red dot displayed on the project board have been disqualified by the Safety Committee due to a violation of the ISEF Rules and Guidelines. You probably won't encounter any but, if you do, interview the student so that they can have a beneficial learning experience, but do NOT award any prizes.

INTERVIEWS (about 8 minutes each)

Examine the quality of the work, and how well the student understands the project and area of study.

The physical display is secondary to the student's knowledge of the subject.

Look for evidence of laboratory, field or theoretical work, not just library research or a facility with gadgets.

Unattended projects should not be judged.

Here are some standard questions used by judges:

- Please spend a minute describing your project. (*Look at the board*).
- How did you get the idea?
- Describe the timeline for this project. (*Look at the notebook, if any*).
- What are the independent and dependent variables?
- What did your teacher/mentor/supervisor contribute?
- (*Engineering projects*) What might the practical difficulties be?
- (*Team projects*) Who did what and how did you apportion the tasks?
- On what basis did you reach your conclusion?
- What could be done to strengthen the work?

If steps have been missed or there is confusion, give the student constructive feedback so they may learn.

EVALUATION

Score each project using the ISEF criteria provided. Use your scores as a guide to choosing winners in consultation with the other judges in your group. Give all your completed score sheets to your Captain.

If students have worked on a project for more than one year, they should have displayed the continuation form 7. ONLY research conducted within the current year is to be evaluated.

Where research was conducted in an industrial or institutional setting, the student should have documentation, most often Form 1C, which will help you determine how much assistance was given.

Judge ONLY the quality of the science and the student's contribution to it.

A student's background should be irrelevant when scoring.

And finally... please be discreet when discussing winners or making critical comments as students, parents, or other judges might be offended. Results are confidential until officially announced and, as a general rule, the deliberations of your judging group should never be discussed with students or parents.

Creativity 30	Idea for project	Assigned by teacher			Copied from book					Originated by student	SCORE
	Methodology	No method			Cookbook					Innovative & original	
Scientific Thought 30 #	Analysis	No analysis		Little analysis		Analysis & interpret				Solved more problems	
	Problem Identification	No problem		Poorly explained		Well defined					
	Procedural Plan	Plan ignored		Somewhat followed		Mostly followed			Precisely followed		
	Defined Variables	No definition		Sketchy definition		Variables clear				Very well document'd	
	Assessment of Data	Conclusion unwarranted		Poor data conclusion		Some speculation				Very good results	
	Future Research	None listed			Future plan						
	Objective	No objective		Poorly explained		Well defined					
	User Relevance	Irrelevant			Somewhat relevant				Highly relevant		
	Workable	Unworkable			Drawbacks		May be viable		End product		
	Improvement	Worse than alternatives			Some improvement				Major advance		
Engineering Goals 30 #	Tested	Not tested		Unrealistic testing		Fully tested					
	Resources Knowledge		Little knowledge	Adequate	Excellent						
	Use of Resources	Ignored				Well Used					
	Self Managed ?	Followed Instructions			Help on Data Collection				Independent Work		
Skill 15	Adequate Data	No data	Inadequate	Sparse	Adequate						
	Relationship to Other Approaches	None Suggested	Some Knowledge	Some Cited							
	Solved Stated Problem	No		Solved Other Problem		Yes					
	Lab Notebook	None		Incomplete	Comprehensive						
	Conclusion from Data	Wild		Some Support	Full Support						
Thoroughness 15	Display	Poor		Acceptable		Near & Clear					
	Clarity of Discussion	No Report Poor Interview		Disorg'zed Poor Interview		Organized OK Interview		Well Org'zed Good Interview			
Clarity 10											

Score EITHER Scientific Thought OR Engineering Goals

TOTAL SCORE / 100 _____