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Judging Criteria

For science exhibits, there are several different aspects that we use to judge each exhibit. The first is a general category that every participant is judged by, made up of four categories: creative ability, thoroughness, skill, and clarity. Each of these categories are graded using various criteria, as follows:

Creative Ability

- Is the **topic** idea **original** or **innovative**?
- Is the **approach** to solving the problem **creative**?
- Did they use the equipment and information services **resourcefully**?
- Was the **interpretation of data** **valid** yet **creative**?
- Is the **information** included in the display **interesting**?
- Did their **research** help answer a question in a creative way?

Thoroughness

- Was the **purpose** carried out to **completion** within the scope of the original intent? **How completely** was the problem covered? Are the conclusions based on a **single experiment or replication**?
- How **complete** are the project notes? How much **time** did the participant(s) on the project?
- Is/Are the student(s) **aware** of other approaches or **theories**? Is/Are the student(s) **familiar** with **scientific literature** in the studied field?

Skill

- Does the project represent the **student's/students' own work** being performed in a suitable location (lab, university, home, etc.)?
- Was the project completed under adult supervision, or did the student(s) work largely **alone**? Did the participant(s) receive **assistance** from parents, teachers, scientists, or engineers?
- Is necessary scientific **skill** demonstrated by using appropriate equipment? Was **resourcefulness** demonstrated by building independently or borrowing equipment to create a valid testing environment?

Clarity

- Do the conclusions make sense based on the results and are they **related back to the hypothesis**? Does the **written material** reflect the student's/students' understanding of the research?
- Are the important **phases** of the project presented in an **orderly** manner? How **clearly** are the **data/results** and project display presented? Are there charts/graphs?

Along with these four general categories, there are several topic specific categories that are evaluated based on the topic and composition of the group. Non-engineering exhibits are judged based on one set