

Upper Miami Valley Science Days

Role of Judges

Thank you so much for being here today! This day would simply not be possible without the voluntary time by you, the judges.

Two judges work together to evaluate each project. Each judge will then complete a project scoring card and add comments. It is strongly urged that positive comments are added to each sheet. Please offer constructive criticism that will benefit the student(s) as they attempt to advance to the State Science Day to be held virtually in May.

Things to keep in mind:

- Judge each science project on a non-competitive basis; judge on the criteria, do not judge students against other students.
- Offer feedback to the students. Please keep it constructive.
- Introduce yourselves and encourage the students. They may be very nervous, especially if this is their first time participating.
- BOTH judges should participate in the 7-15 minute interview of the student
 - Introduce yourself; feel free to give them a little background about who you are
 - Ask the student(s) to describe their project
 - Skim over the written report
 - Ask questions (see provided examples)
- Read over the entire scoring card before scoring
- It is recommended that the students are rated into a category first (good, excellent, superior) then numerically scored
- Please do NOT inform students of their scores!
- Have a great attitude and have fun! ;)
- Return the completed scoring cards to the data tabulator ASAP. Do not hold onto the cards. Return the card for one project before moving onto the next project please.
- Consider the grade of the student and the experiences they have had prior to the competition.

If you have questions, concerns or comments, please seek out a Science Day Coordinator:

- Dr. Martin English
- Angela McMurry

Possible Questions From the Judges

1. How did you come up with the idea for this project? What was your inspiration?
2. What did you learn by completing this project/test/experiment?
3. Describe the variables (independent--constant; dependent--changing) in this project.
4. Did you have an experimental control? If so, explain the importance and how it was utilized.
5. Was there any experimental error in this project? How could you have reduced it?
6. What did you learn from your background research?
7. Did you build the prototype used to test the hypothesis? How long did it take to build?
8. What time frame was used to collect data?
9. How many times did you collect data?
10. Ask them specific questions about terminology used or jargon.
11. Do you think there is an application in industry for this knowledge or technique?
12. When did you commence this project?
13. Is this project a continuation from a previous project? If so, explain the continuation.
14. If you could, what is the extension of this project that is needed?
15. What was the most challenging part of completing this project? Why?
16. If you could complete this project again, what would you change and why?
17. Did anyone help you with completing this project? How much time did they spend completing the project with you?
18. Explain your data. How did you collect it? Did you use any applications to analyze it?
19. If a team project, how did you ensure that each team member contributed equally to the project?
20. Are there any areas that we have not covered which you feel are important to discuss with us?