

SCIENCE FAIR JUDGING GUIDE & RUBRIC

This rubric will be used to assess science fair entries. The three grade categories (K-4, 5-8, and 9-12) have distinct rubrics. Projects are scored out of 100. There are 5 scoring categories worth up to 20 points each. Scoring 15-20 points represents high-level student achievement for each task, scoring 5-15 points represents achievement that could be considered average, while scoring 0-5 points constitutes a level of work needing improvement.

The science fair is an opportunity for students to work through the research process and learn through practice. As part of this, judges may use plagiarism detection or AI detection systems to ensure fair scoring. If students encounter challenges during their project and would like assistance, ASAGivesBack Committee members are happy to offer mentorship to students.

The descriptions found under the column labeled “25” represents high-level student achievement for each particular task, the column labeled “15” represents achievement that could be considered average, while the level “5” constitutes a level of work needing improvement.

Category	25	15	5
Creativity & Originality Score: ____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The problem being addressed by the student was either completely original or significantly modified from a previous idea or source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The problem being investigated or idea being presented was slightly modified from another source or investigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The problem or idea is very common and / or it has been replicated by others many times.
Essay and video	Observations are clearly summarized and explanations are clear.	Explanations, observations are mostly complete, with little need for improvement.	The explanation is difficult to follow and conclusions are confusing or missing.
Project Score: ____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The project display is indicative of a superior level of understanding with regard to the scientific method. · Evidence of variable testing indicates a thorough assessment of qualitative and quantitative data. · Variables identified, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The project display demonstrates a clear understanding of the scientific method with reference to quantitative and qualitative data where applicable. · Variables clearly identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The project display does not demonstrate a clear understanding of the scientific method. · No clear evidence provided with regard to quantitative or qualitative data. Variables not identified.

	measured, and displayed.		
Appropriateness of the Data Visualization Visualizations address the investigative question	Visualizations are correctly constructed and appropriate for the question asked and the data used.	Gaps exist in the demonstration of understanding of the visualizations, or how the visualizations relate to the statistical investigative question.	Some errors in the visualizations and lack of connection to the question.
Validity of Results and conclusions Score: ____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The conclusion references the results and discusses the original hypothesis. · The essay and video includes a summary of any mistakes or challenges present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The conclusion is too brief, not detailed enough, or slightly difficult to follow. Original hypothesis is assessed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The conclusion does not reference the results, nor does it discuss the original hypothesis.