

Judging Criteria

RESEARCH PAPER DIVISION

sciencefairstl.org

For 2022, projects will NOT be allowed that handle, test, or sample bacteria, virus, mold, fire (or burning objects) or hazardous materials. Students may, instead, submit a research paper in the NEW "Research Paper Division" where students can study reliable data. See website for details.

Project Elements	DESCRIPTION OF CRITERIA	Possible Score	Score
	LIMIT: 5 PAGES DOUBLE SPACED plus 1 page for signed safety form RESEARCH PAPER IS AGE-APPROPRIATE		
APPROVAL FROM TEACHER	All projects are required to have e-mail approval from their teacher prior to the beginning of their study. The e-mail approval is included in their research paper.	0-10	
TITLE & DESCRIPTION	Title and description of project. Title accurately describes the research. Description is 50 words or less.	0-5	
INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND	Student introduces specific question, provides background information of science concepts related to their question. History – highlights key discoveries and early research. Significance – explains the importance of this research. Explains why the student is interested in the topic.	0-10	
BIBLIOGRAPHY & SOURCE CREDIT	Includes at least 3 reliable sources. Student is careful to give proper credit. Use quotes and citations to cite a fact, quote directly from a source. The citation is set off using "signal phrase" or with parentheses and is cross-referenced in the Bibliography.	0-10	
RESEARCH AND BODY OF THE PAPER:			
	Research the topic. Student clearly defines why topic is important or "how can I or society make this better." All information should be in your own words unless cited. Research contains sufficient information to provide a scientific explanation. Shows evidence student understands project. Research is age-appropriate. Research can be interviews with knowledgeable adults (with permission and oversight of parent) as well as reliable internet sources and books. Facts – tells what is known about the topic. Method – tells how this topic is being studied.	0-30	
	Possible Solutions: Student describes possible solutions that are being studied by their reliable internet sources, books and articles. Student documents what solutions or technologies already exist.	0-10	
	Data: Data that is collected from reliable source is organized and properly labeled and presented as a data table, graph, photos or illustrations.	0-10	
	More to study: Student describes their own ideas or additional ideas that are under investigation by universities and research laboratories.	0-5	
	Conclusion & Reflection: Reflects what the student has learned. Were there any surprises? Student demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter. Conclusions and applications are clear and supported by research data.	0-10	