

Science Fair Judging Rubric - The Bromfield School

Project title / # \_\_\_\_\_

**Experimental (Original or historical)**

0 = No effort  
2 = moderately good job  
4 = Professional, well-done job.  
1 = An attempt was made  
3 = very good job

**Scientific approach**

Clearly stated hypothesis? 0 1 2 3 4  
Logical procedure to test hypothesis? 0 1 2 3 4  
Proper control group? 0 1 2 3 4  
Is data graphed, tabulated, or analyzed in a useful way? 0 1 2 3 4  
Are the conclusions supported by the data?  
(Compare the experimental data with the control data.) 0 1 2 3 4

**Research**

Is there evidence of sufficient preliminary research? 0 1 2 3 4  
Is there a rich variety of research resources, e.g. books, articles, encyclopedias, **reliable** websites (such as those with a .edu or.gov suffix)? 0 1 2 3 4

**Written records**

Did s/he keep a detailed journal, showing what was done on each day, the results, etc.? 0 1 2 3 4  
Typed, well-organized report, written in a concise fashion, with a works cited page? 0 1 2 3 4

**Creativity**

*Original experiment:* Has the student presented new or unique ideas?

0 1 2 3 4

*Historical experiment:* Merely explaining a new idea is not enough. How did scientists think about the subject before this historic experiment? Is it explained why/how someone changed the way they thought about this?

**Display presentation**

Thought and time put into the display? 0 1 2 3 4  
Are there supplements, handouts, or hands-on components?  
Is information displayed in a well organized fashion? 1 2 3 4  
*If applicable, take into account whether or not they use colorful, easy-to-read graphs, chart, etc. However, unnecessary over-usage of color and graphics may be considered a distraction.*

**Oral presentation**

Can s/he answer questions about his/her work? Student should be conversant with the subject. They should be able to clearly state their hypothesis, how they tested it, identify their control group, etc. 0 1 2 3 4

**Judge's comments:**

total score \_\_\_\_/52

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Project title / # \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-experimental (Research/Educational)**

0 = No effort  
2 = moderately good job  
4 = Professional, well-done job.  
1 = An attempt was made  
3 = very good job

**Research**

Is there a rich variety of research resources, e.g. books, articles, encyclopedias, **reliable** websites (such as those with a .edu or.gov suffix)? 0 1 2 3 4

**Historical and scientific context**

Merely explaining a new idea is not enough New ideas develop within the context of older ideas. How did scientists think about the subject before this new experiment/idea? Is it explained why/how someone changed the way they thought about this? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Can we see a timeline of ideas related to this topic? Do we see how this new idea relates to earlier ideas, and later ideas?

0 1 2 3 4

**Student conveying their understanding of the experiment/idea**

Does s/he understand the nature of the experiments/observation used to test this idea? Experiments depend on comparing an experiment group to a control group. Is the need for a control group understood? If no control group was needed, is there a good explanation why?

0 1 2 3 4

How well does student convey his/her knowledge of the material , through both their display and oral presentation? 0 1 2 3 4

**Display presentation**

Thought and time put into display? Any supplements, handouts, video or hands-on components? 0 1 2 3 4

Is data graphed, tabulated, or analyzed? In other words, is it clear how the data (or observations) lead to the new idea being accepted?

0 1 2 3 4

*Take into account whether or not s/he uses colorful, easy-to-read graphs, chart, etc. However, unnecessary over-usage of color and graphics may be considered a distraction.*

**Oral presentation**

Can s/he answer questions about their work? Do his/her answers show that he/she is comfortable speaking about the subject? 0 1 2 3 4

**Report**

Typed, well-organized report, with a works cited page? (Or is it available on a website, CD-ROM, or some other form?) 0 1 2 3 4

**Judge's comments:**

total \_\_\_\_\_/40