

Science Fair Rubric

Student's Name _____ Date _____

Project Title: _____

This rubric provides a general outline for scoring and may be used in conjunction with state and district performance standards. Modification of the rubric is encouraged in order to meet the needs of individual students and grade levels. For grades K-2, the research paper portion of the rubric may or may not be required.

SCORING GUIDE	
4	Exceeds performance standard
3	Meets performance standard
2	Approaches performance standard
1	Does not meet performance standard
0	Unable to score

Criteria

SCIENCE JOURNAL	CATEGORY SCORE
4	Science journal is neat, complete, and organized by date and time of entry. Journal gives the reader an exceptionally accurate, thorough, and well-organized understanding of the project and how it was carried out.
3	Science journal is neat, complete, and organized by date and time of entry. Journal gives the reader a thorough understanding of the project and how it was carried out.
2	Science journal is organized. The reader understands what the project was about and most of the important details about how the project was carried out.
1	Science journal is incomplete and poorly organized. The reader is left confused about the project and how it was carried out.
0	Science journal is not submitted.

RESEARCH PAPER	CATEGORY SCORE
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PRESENTATION		SUBCATEGORY SCORE
4	Research paper is neat, typed, thoroughly proofread, and attractive. The paper is well written with excellent transitions, grammar, punctuation, and spelling throughout.	
3	Research paper is neat, typed, and attractive. The paper is well written with few errors; if errors exist, readability is not impeded.	
2	Readability of the research paper may be slowed due to several errors in writing or organization, but the reader can still understand the project.	
1	Readability is severely impeded due to many errors. The research paper is disorganized and messy.	
0	Research paper is not submitted.	

CONTENTS		SUBCATEGORY SCORE
4	Research paper contains all required parts. All parts are thoroughly explained and creatively and exceptionally presented. The reader comes away with a thorough understanding of the project. The student has included reflections, implications for future research, and applications to the wider world.	
3	Research paper contains all required parts. The reader thoroughly understands the project.	
2	Research paper contains most essential parts, but other parts are missing or inadequate. The reader understands the project's purpose and its results, although there may be a need for additional explanation.	
1	Research paper is missing some or most of its essential parts. The reader is left confused about the project's purpose and its results.	
0	Science journal is not submitted.	

DATA		SUBCATEGORY SCORE
4	Results are clearly and neatly displayed. The reader is able to quickly and easily understand the data. All charts/graphs/tables are properly labeled and easy to read. All data from charts/graphs/tables are exceptionally well explained in the results section of the paper.	
3	Results are clearly and neatly displayed. The reader is able to understand the data. All charts/graphs/tables are properly labeled and easy to read. Charts/graphs/tables are explained in the results section of the paper.	
2	Results are displayed in charts/graphs/tables. The reader is able to understand the data, although it may take time to decipher.	
1	Data is poorly displayed. Results are confusing.	
0	Research paper has no results/data section.	

DISPLAY BOARD	CATEGORY SCORE
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USE OF MATERIALS AND SPACE	SUBCATEGORY SCORE
4	Display board and use of space meet size requirements and privacy protection rules. The student uses display board and space creatively.
3	Display board and use of space meet size requirements and privacy protection rules.
2	Display board and use of space needs minor modification in order to meet size requirements and/or privacy protection rules.
1	Display board and use of space needs major modification in order to meet size requirements and/or privacy protection rules.
0	Display board is not submitted.

PRESENTATION	SUBCATEGORY SCORE
4	Original and creative use of color and visuals. Well-organized, neat, typed, thoroughly proofread, and easy to read from left to right at 1 meter away. Well-balanced presentation of project in each of the sections. Captions are used for all pictures. All graphs, tables, and charts have titles and labels.
3	Visually appealing, neat, and easy to read from left to right. Typed and proofread. Font style and size allows for reading from 1 meter away. Well-balanced presentation of project in each of the sections. Captions are used for all pictures. Graphs, tables, and charts have titles and labels.
2	Neat, with few errors. Presentation lacks visual appeal, but is still readable.
1	Readability is severely impeded by many errors or sloppy presentation.
0	Display board is not submitted.

CONTENT	SUBCATEGORY SCORE
4	All essential sections are represented. Information is clearly presented under the correct headings. Display includes an abstract, background research, and a bibliography.
3	All essential sections are represented. Information is clearly presented under the correct headings.
2	The essential sections are represented, although some of the information may be confusing or skeletal. Information is presented under the correct headings.
1	Display board is missing some or most of the required sections. Information is unclear, missing, or presented under the wrong headings.
0	Display board is not submitted.

ORAL PRESENTATION	CATEGORY SCORE
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UNDERSTANDING OF TOPIC	SUBCATEGORY SCORE	
4	The student demonstrates an exceptional understanding of the topic.	
3	The student demonstrates a solid understanding of the topic.	
2	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the topic. Some misinformation or confusion may be evident during the presentation.	
1	The student is often confused or presents misinformation.	
0	No oral presentation is given.	

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT	SUBCATEGORY SCORE	
4	The student clearly explains each of the essential sections. The student adds relevant details in addition to these sections, such as implications for future research, application of the research, or a project reflection.	
3	The student clearly explains each of the essential sections.	
2	The student explains most of the essential sections, though explanation may be skeletal.	
1	Explanation is extremely skeletal or nonexistent for most of the essential sections of the project.	
0	No oral presentation is given.	

ABILITY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS	SUBCATEGORY SCORE	
4	The student is able to thoroughly answer all questions about the project.	
3	The student is able to answer most questions about the project.	
2	The student is able to answer some questions about the project.	
1	The student is unable to adequately answer questions about the project.	
0	No oral presentation is given.	

ORATION	SUBCATEGORY SCORE	
4	The student speaks loudly, clearly, and enthusiastically about his/her project. The student faces his/her audience and presents with confidence. The student may reference the display board, but does not read from it or use notecards for his/her presentation.	
3	The student speaks loudly and clearly and faces his/her audience. The student may reference the display board, but does not read from it or use notecards for his/her presentation.	
2	The student lacks confidence in his/her presentation. The student's presentation is almost entirely (or entirely) read from notecards or the display board. The teacher may need to prompt the student to face the audience or to speak more audibly.	
1	The student is not prepared for his/her presentation. It is extremely difficult to hear or understand the presentation, even with teacher prompting.	
0	No oral presentation is given.	

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Project Title: _____

Summary Scoring Form

SCIENCE JOURNAL	CATEGORY SCORE	
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RESEARCH PAPER	CATEGORY SCORE	
Presentation	Subcategory Score	
Contents	Subcategory Score	
Data	Subcategory Score	

DISPLAY BOARD	CATEGORY SCORE	
Use of Materials and Space	Subcategory Score	
Presentation	Subcategory Score	
Content	Subcategory Score	

ORAL PRESENTATION	CATEGORY SCORE	
Understanding of Topic	Subcategory Score	
Description of Research Project	Subcategory Score	
Ability to Answer Questions	Subcategory Score	
Oration	Subcategory Score	

OVERALL SCORE	
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COMMENTS