

### Question and Hypothesis (5 points)

Hypothesis very clearly stated. Completely testable	Hypothesis present but not completely testable.	Hypothesis incomplete or difficult to test.	Hypothesis missing or obscure. Impossible to test.
4 – 5 Points	3 Points	2 Points	0 – 1 Points

### Experimental Procedure (15 points)

Well explained methods. Sequential steps listed. Strong evidence of method refinement to improve repeatability. Use of variables and controls.	Solid methods with good descriptions. Understands relationship between thoroughness of methods and repeatability of results.	Adequate methods reasonable well followed. Opportunities for improvement not observed or not implemented.	Methods not listed or followed. Obvious opportunities for improvement overlooked or ignored.
12 – 15 Points	8-11 Points	4-7 Points	0 – 4 Points

### Observation and Analysis (20 points)

Evidence of extensive effort in collecting meaningful data. Appropriate data presentation method selected. Well planned charts and tables. Graphs have sophisticated scales and axes. Extraneous data suppressed. Data collection and measurement were done carefully and recorded neatly	Evidence of good analysis of results and close monitoring of tests. Data gathering appropriate for experiment. Notes explaining "outliers" and trends.	Observations generally match data presented. Some mis-interpretation resulting from improper data presentation method. Shallow understanding of experiment and results.	Data missing or corrupted. Poor interpretation of data or results. Absence of quantified data.
16 – 20 Points	11-15 Points	5-10 Points	0-4 Points

### Conclusion (15 Points)

States if hypothesis was correct or incorrect. Uses data from experiment to support conclusion. Accuracy, reliability, and reproducibility of the data were evaluated. Adequate data collected / enough trials for conclusion drawn. Controls clearly identified. Possible sources of error and uncontrolled conditions discussed. Discussion is insightful and demonstrates a clear understanding of the research.	Conclusion is somewhat objective. Explanations understood but briefly expressed. Project design could be improved to resolve potential problems.	Conclusion is reasonably objective. Explanations not well expressed or understood. Appears conclusion is slightly forced to fit weak results. Possible sources of error were not addressed.	Conclusion missing or not supported by rest of presentation.
12 – 15 Points	8-11 Points	4-7 Points	0 – 4 Points

### Creativity, Originality & Skill Level (20 Points)

The approach to the investigation was scientific, creative & original. The problem is new, different, and/or meaningful. Safety issues, if any,	The project type is commonly found online and in books, but with original goals and methods. The approach and level of difficulty were	Common project modified for some originality. The project was slightly more simple than the student's age would indicate. There was some	Lacking originality and creativity. Safety issues were not addressed. The project was significantly more simple
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were addressed. The approach and level of difficulty were challenging for a student of this age. The project was clearly the student's work (It is appropriate for students to receive help and instruction from others, but the project should be done entirely by the student.) All help was clearly noted and credited.	reasonable for a student of this age. The project was most likely entirely the student's work.	ambiguity as to what help the student might have received.	than the student's age would indicate.
16 – 20 Points	11 – 15 Points	5 – 10 Points	0 – 4 Points

### Clarity (5 Points)

Very well organized on board and in workbook. Visuals, models and graphics clearly support topic and goals. Presentation flows very well.	Organized and orderly. Easy to follow. Understandable graphics. Importance of quantifying results is evident.	Adequate correlation of data and conclusions. Limited charts, tables and graphs.	Difficult to read due to sloppiness and misspellings. Visually uninteresting. Lack of care distracts from work.
4 – 5 Points	3 Points	2 Points	0 – 1 Points

### Display (20 Points)

Display is self-explanatory & easy to understand. Sections neatly and clearly labeled. Everything is pleasantly readable. Spelling and grammar are correct. Writing is neat. Project is eye catching and exhibits excellent appearance and quality. Project size and materials help convey aspects of the project and meet all requirements	Project is well organized and easy to understand. Sections are present but might be slightly harder to find / follow. Project is readable but could be improved & spelling / grammar contain only a few mistakes. Project size and materials are slightly awkward.	Adequate readability and view ability. Presentation appears to be an afterthought. Overall adequate effort. May lack in one or more areas.	Difficult to read due to sloppiness and misspellings. Visually uninteresting / confusing. Lack of care distracts from work. Appears rushed. Hastily conducted and assembled. Inappropriate materials, violates requirements (such as free standing)
16 – 20 Points	11-15 Points	5-10 Points	0 – 4 Points

Project Comments:

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Notes: This criteria is intended to be reasonably absolute in that it is not to be adjusted for grade level. Nonetheless, the points system is skewed slightly for effort, observation and creativity - qualities achievable at all grade levels.

The goal of the Science Fair is to encourage the scientific thought process: **Hypothesis / Testing / Results / Conclusion.**

Therefore, a project incorporating an experiment will, in most cases, score higher than a project which is merely a demonstration.