

Scoring Guide/Rubric
APA Award for Achievement in Research in Psychological Science
(ISEF Affiliated Regional Science Fairs)

Use the criteria below to score each science project. The total possible points for each project is **100** points. Use your best professional judgment to score each project.

CRITERIA FOR SCORING ENTRIES / PROJECTS

Creative Ability (30 points possible)

- Does the project show creative ability and originality in the questions asked?
- Does the research support the investigation and help answer a question in an original way?
- Does the research promote an efficient and reliable method for solving a problem?

Subtotal _____

Scientific Thought (30 points possible)

- Is the problem stated clearly and unambiguously?
- Is the problem sufficiently limited to allow plausible attack?
- Is there a procedural plan for obtaining a solution?
- Are the variables clearly recognized and defined?
- Are there adequate data to support the conclusions?
- Does the finalist/team recognize the data's limitations?
- Does the finalist/team understand the project's ties to related research?
- Does the finalist/team have an idea of what further research is warranted?
- Did the finalist/team cite scientific literature?

Subtotal _____

Thoroughness (15 points possible)

- Was the purpose carried out to completion within the scope of the original intent?
- How completely was the problem covered?
- Are the conclusions based on a single experiment or replication of an experiment?
- How complete are the project notes?
- Is the finalist/team aware of other approaches or theories?
- How much time did the finalist/team spend on the project?
- Is the finalist/team familiar with scientific literature in the studied field?

Subtotal _____

Skill (15 points possible)

- Does the finalist/team have the required observational and design skills to obtain supporting data?
- Where was the project performed? Did the student or team receive assistance from parents, teachers, or scientists?
- Was the project completed under adult supervision, or did the student/team work largely alone?
- Where did the equipment come from? Was it built independently by the finalist or team? Was it obtained on loan? Was it part of a laboratory where the finalist or team worked?

Subtotal _____

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Clarity (10 points possible)

- How clearly does the finalist discuss his/her project and explain the purpose, procedure, and conclusions?
- Does the written material reflect the finalist's or team's understanding of the research?
- Are the important phases of the project presented in an orderly manner?
- How clearly is the data presented?
- How clearly are the results presented?
- How well does the physical display explain the project?
- Did the finalist/team perform all the project work, or did someone help?

Subtotal _____

OVERALL POINTS SCORED (100 possible points) _____