



SCIENCE FAIR ORAL PRESENTATIONS

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE JUDGES ARRIVE ON FRIDAY MORNING?

- You will be judged at least three times on Friday morning.
- Each judge will spend from 20 to 30 minutes at your project.
- When judges come to your project, they will introduce themselves and then ask you (and your partner if you have one) to explain your project.
- A complete presentation includes the information on your backboard/tri-fold, your log book, and your oral presentation
- Your backboard should contain all information discussed in “Elements of an Experimental Project” or “Elements of a Non-experimental/Research Project” on the Project Tips page of our web site (<http://cysf.org/science-fair-project-tips.htm>).
- Your log book should contain all of the information described in “Science Fair Log Books” on the Project Tips page of our web site (<http://cysf.org/science-fair-project-tips.html>).

ORAL PRESENTATION POINTERS

- If you worked on your project with a partner, then both of you will be responsible for preparing and giving your oral presentation, and for answering the judges’ questions. It is up to you to figure out the best way of doing that, but usually taking turns is a good idea.
- Before the fair, prepare a five-to ten minute speech that is a summary of the information on your backboard/tri-fold; explain your project in simple terms so anyone can understand it. Start by introducing yourself, the title of your project and how you came up with your idea for the project. Then go through your project in the same order that your information is presented on your backboard/tri-fold and end with a discussion of the project’s practical applications and what you might change if you were to do the experiment again. Emphasize how you were creative/unique/innovative with your project. Finally, ask the judge if he/she has any questions or feedback for you.
- Do your best to memorize your presentation, but also prepare cue cards with the main points of your presentation written on them to help you remember if you are a bit nervous and worried about forgetting. Remember to number your cards, in case you drop them!
- Then practise, practise, practise your presentation to your parents, friends, and teacher so you will be relaxed and confident by Friday morning when it’s time to give your talk to the judges.



- On fair day, do not rush through your presentation. Speak clearly and slowly enough so that it is easy for the judges to understand you.
- Look straight into the eyes of your judges; make eye contact with them.
- Make good use of your board. Point to diagrams and graphs when you are discussing them.
- Stand in front of your project and move off to the side when showing the judge different aspects of your board (i.e., graphs, diagrams, photographs, model or display).
- Always be positive and enthusiastic! Show the judges you are interested in your research and they will be more likely to remember you.
- When answering judges' questions, be confident with your answers. You are the expert!
- Be serious about all the judges' questions, even if they sometimes ask the same question several times. Remember this is the first time they are looking at your project and they want to learn all they can from you, the expert!
- If you do not understand what a judge is asking you, ask them to rephrase their question, to ask their question in a different way, or ask them to be more specific.
- If you still have no idea what the judge is asking, or do not know the answer to their question, it is okay to say "I don't know." You might also say: "I never thought of that before but I will look into it. That's very interesting." Then write it down in a notebook so they know you are serious about checking it out.

THINGS TO AVOID DURING YOUR ORAL PRESENTATION

- **Do not** read directly from your backboard/tri-fold.
- Do not chew gum or eat food while presenting your project.
- Do not mumble.
- Do not fidget or wring your hands.
- Do not use slang or swear words.
- Don't say filler words "like" or "you know" or "um" if you can help it. Instead, pause for a moment if you need to collect your thoughts.
- Do not talk facing your backboard/tri-fold with your back to the judges.