

Presentation Notes: Advice for Students on Judging Day

- Be declarative in your statements. For example, “This is important because...”
- Describe what is new and creative about your project
- Provide a take-home message. What is the most important thing to know or understand about your project?
- Stand up when a judge arrives, if you are not already doing so. Shake their hand, introduce yourself, and make eye contact.
- When speaking to them, remember that it is a conversation, not a speech.
- Interact with your board while speaking by pointing to and highlighting parts of your poster.
- Do not be afraid to talk about failures or problems you experienced during the project. If you do mention these, address how you overcame any problem.
- Avoid jargon while speaking and define any specialized terms that you have to use.
- Take judges’ suggestions and address them. This validates their input to your project.
- Don’t be afraid to say: “I don’t know.” You may also say: “That’s an interesting/important question. I don’t know the answer, but I will try to find out.”
- If you receive good advice from one judge, or if they point out a key deficiency in your project, feel free to incorporate it for subsequent judges, but be sure that you fully understand their advice if you do so.
- No snacks, gum, or other messy foods while you are presenting.
- It is fine to talk quietly with your neighbors when idle, but be sure to give any judge who shows up at your poster your immediate attention.
- If you have an unpleasant interaction with a judge, be sure to report to someone involved in running the fair.

How to Start: Four Simple Sentences in 30 – 60 seconds

1. State what you did.
2. State why you did it.
3. State what you found.
4. Explain why this is important and why others should care.

(The order of these four items is not absolute, so you should feel free to rearrange them in a way that best fits your project.)

A Final Piece of Advice

If you have a personal motivation for having chosen this project, share that with the judges.