

The Oral Presentation

The oral presentation is often the most difficult part of doing an investigation to some students. If you practice and know your material, then you should consider yourself well prepared and be confident. Teachers often have their own in class requirements for presenting to the class. These pointers are for making presentations to judges.

Judges

1. There are 2 different judge sets you will see at the science fair.
 - A. Category place judges determine the award places-1st, 2nd, etc.
 - B. Special Awards judges recognize a project that matches the organization's special interest and business. These awards can vary with the organizations presenting them that range from internships, scholarships, gift cards/certificates, etc..
2. The number of judges you see will vary. The initial interview may be just one to several. Judges realize you may be nervous and will be patient. This may be the first time to judge a science fair for some judges, so they may be nervous as well.

Pointers.

1. Always look the judges in the eye and smile.
2. Shake their hand and greet them.
3. Speak clearly and make sure you are loud enough for the judges to hear. Do not talk too fast or stammer. Stop and take a breath to organize what you are thinking if you need to.
4. Your appearance should be neat, not sloppy.
5. Pick up and refer to any resources you need-your logbook, photos in a folder or extra data in a folder.
6. Make sure you hand the judges a copy of your abstract. You should have at least 30 copies of the abstract.)
7. Use your abstract as the basis of your presentation. This will help you with the flow of your presentation.
8. Just as your abstract is brief compared to your final write up your presentation should be the same. Your initial presentation should be around 2-3 minutes. The judge's times are limited so do not read your information off the abstract or notecards. Be brief and concise. Make sure you allow time for the judges to ask questions.
9. Start off with what you did-identify your variables.
10. Tell the judge why you choose this study and make real-world connections.
11. Do not read your procedure to the judges. This can be long and use up valuable time. Highlight what you did. If you built a special apparatus for your experiment you may want to point that out.
12. Discuss your data. Do not read off the data tables to the judges. Describe what the trends show. Again, refer back to your abstract.
13. If a judge asks you a question make sure you answer what they were really asking. Do not stray off topic.

14. If you have trouble understanding the judge's question, ask them to explain it. They know you are nervous and will not mind.
15. Practice, practice and practice your presentation with your peers and parents. Get feedback and suggestions to improve. Have them ask some questions that judges might. Also, have them time you.
16. Let the judges see the pride you have for a project well done.
17. When the judges leave, thank them.