

Tips for Scoring Points during the judging on a 1-5 scale:

Typically exhibited in a “5” project: Through the Verbal and Poster presentation:

- **Your project should have a specific question** that leads to *quantifiable* measurements (numerical data) or in an engineering /computer science/robotics project a goal - The design and construction of a (product) for (customer) to do (function).”
- **Your project should have a good control** with strong consideration for canceling uncontrolled variables or in an engineering /computer science/robotics project it has a **well-defined criteria of the product’s** physical and functional characteristics as well as constraints that pose limits such as cost & time.
- **Your project should have adequate quantified data sets** to support your hypothesis/goal *Our SACSEF judges are told to keep in mind the student’s available resources.
- **Your project should have a meaningful graph** or more than one that answers the question/engineering goal. The graph Title conveys the purpose, units correctly placed on x- and y-axis
- **Your project should have a coherent conclusion** based solely on data not opinion or assumption.
- **Your verbal presentation exhibits** confidence, quality, clarity and organization. You should speak dynamically and fluently with good eye contact, and exhibit interest in your own project. **Smiling and remembering to BREATHE helps!**

Judges are trained to:

*Ask the students questions that will guide the student to understanding yet avoid interrogating – for instance asking “what might have happened if...?”

*Listen to the student’s explanation – looking if it sounds like the student actually did the project him/herself.

*Listen to make sure the student understands the project versus did they memorize information. Can they talk casually about the project?

Sample Questions

- How did you come up with your idea?
- Describe your control and independent and dependent variables?
- What did you do to come up with your results?
- How did you calculate that result?
- Why did you choose that amount or measurement or piece of equipment, etc.?
- How many trials did you do?
- What does that graph tell you about your results?
- How variable were your results and what might explain the variability?
- What did you base your conclusion on?
- Did you get any help from anyone?
- Does our project have practical applications? If so what?
- What is the most important thing you learned from doing your research?
- What would you do differently next time?
- What were your project or design constraints (or) did you encounter any problems while doing this project?