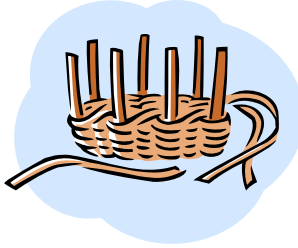


What judges look for:

Construction items, photos, text, posters

Construction items

1. Design is creative and original
2. Appearance
 - A. Is neat and interesting
 - B. Fits the intended purpose
3. Quality workmanship
 - A. Work is high quality
 - B. Work is appropriate for your ability or grade in school
 - C. Item is made of appropriate materials
 - D. Item is durable



Photos

1. Photos are exposed and focused properly
2. Photos are well composed—clear subject, simple background

Text

1. Any written items are neat and legible
2. Spelling and grammar are correct
3. The information is accurate

Posters

1. Poster board is the proper size and color for your county fair
2. Clean with no pencil marks, messy glue, fingerprints or dirt
3. Well designed, with a pleasing balance of art, text and white space
4. Has only one main, clearly expressed idea
5. Has only one main, eye-catching piece of art
6. Title attracts attention and clearly tells what the poster is about
7. Text is kept to a minimum, with all words spelled correctly
8. Lettering is plain, simple and large, with good contrast to be read from a distance
9. Contains original work



Some things to keep in mind about judges...



If you've done your best work on your project, it's disappointing not to get the rating you were expecting. Just remember—the judge's opinion is simply one person's opinion. A different judge might have given you a different placing.

But even if you don't agree with the judge, it's worth paying attention to what he or she has to say about your project. You could get some great ideas for how to do even better next time. Here are some tips about feedback:

- Pay attention to what the judge liked instead of getting upset about what he or she didn't like. Even if there were some negative comments, there were probably just as many positive ones!
- Don't be nervous about face-to-face judging. The judge is truly interested in youth, otherwise he or she wouldn't be there. Relax so you can be your friendly, natural self when the judge meets with you. And if you don't understand something he or she says, be sure to say so.
- Think about how you can use the judge's feedback. What can you do differently if you intend to keep working on this kind of project? What will you want to do the same way?

What if you were the judge? What kind of rating would you give your project if you were judging it? **BE HONEST!**

Your opinion matters. Being able to have fun and learn how to do something worthwhile is just as important as whatever the judge thought about your work.