CT-JSHS Suggestions to Prepare for the Presentations

- Remember, you are the expert. No one in the audience knows as much about your research investigation as you. Therefore, remember to explain your research in enough detail so the audience will understand what you did, how you did it, and what you learned.

- Whenever possible, avoid jargon or unnecessary terminology. If it is essential to use specialized terms, remember to explain the specialized term briefly. Give your audience enough time to understand what you are trying to convey.

- Deliver your presentation at a comfortable pace. It helps to practice your presentation before a non-specialized audience. Practice will help perfect the presentation and the timing. Do listen to the advice of your non-specialized audience but also get help from a teacher or other advisors as needed.

- Graphs, tables and other representation help explain your results. Keep them simple and uncluttered. Focus on important information; for example, remember to name the variables on both axes of a graph, and state the significance of the position and shape of the graph line.

Requirements for the Oral Presentations

Session Timing

The research presentation may not exceed 12 minutes, followed by a maximum 6-minute question period. A session moderator will aid the student speaker in maintaining this schedule and in fielding questions from the audience.

The procedure for maintaining the time includes a 10-minute signal for the student, and finally a 12-minute signal. At the 12-minute point, the student speaker must stop the presentation even if he or she has not finished.

Following the presentation, the session moderator will ask for audience questions for 5 minutes. Judges will have priority. The speaker may entertain questions while the exchange appears interesting and relevant. Questions intended to harass the student speakers will not be allowed by the session moderator. The speaker should repeat a question before answering so the audience may understand the entire dialogue.

Use of Audio Visuals - available equipment

Available audio-visual equipment in each session at National includes: (1) LCD projector; (2) projection screen; and (3) a laser pointer. Additionally, PC-based computers will be in each session room configured with Microsoft PowerPoint and Adobe Acrobat. The use of other software requires students to bring their own equipment. Mac users should plan to bring a Mac adapter to plug-in to available equipment.

Equipment operators will not be available in each session. Students should number visuals in sequence so the presenter can easily reshow one. Many times, visuals are re-shown during the questioning period.

PowerPoint Suggestions

Student presenters are reminded to:

- Embed any video, or other presentation developed through other software, into PowerPoint.

- Save the PowerPoint presentation to an IBM-compatible thumb drive, and plug into available PC-based equipment with that thumb drive.
• Bring back-up media.
• If using video, students must comply with the following ground rules:
  • The video component cannot make up more than one (1) minute of the presentation and must be directly relevant to the project.
  • No audio or background music is permitted other than sounds that are an integral part of the research. Recorded or mechanically produced narration is not permitted. Narration must come from the speaker.
  • Videos (and audio, if any) may be used only for those aspects of the presentation that cannot adequately be presented in a slide. Video material presented must be an integral part of the research and should not be a substitute for presentation of data. Videos must not be used for presentation of common procedures, illustrating equipment or showing laboratory facilities. Videos should illustrate work that was done and should not be used for stimulation or aesthetic value.