2023 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR AND EXHIBITION

PENN STATE SCRANTON

**Judging for Empirical Research Projects**

*This is the judging form for projects where students have collected their own data and/or are working out their own analysis/interpretation of it. If the research is entirely based on data already processed in literature, use the Literature Review form instead.*

**Poster Judging Criteria**

The purpose of a poster exhibit is to convey to a wide audience a research project's significance to scholars in the field and its potential significance to the general public. Exhibits will be judged on their quality in four areas:

**1) Content -** The exhibit must include:

 A short title of the project

 Student name (or names, if more than one student is presenting the exhibit)

 Collaborators, adviser(s), and department(s)

 Funding sources (if applicable)

 Project objectives and/or hypotheses

 Significance to the field and society in general

 Methods

 Results, interpretation of results and conclusions, limitations, and directions for future research

 Documentation of sources used for the project through the use of references.

**2) Display -** The core of each exhibit is a poster with text and graphics intended for a general audience.

 Poster should attract attention and convey important information about the project.

 Language should be simple and descriptions brief. Excessive jargon should be avoided; necessary technical terms should be defined.

 Spelling and grammar must be correct.

 Photographs, drawings, charts, tables, or graphs should be simple, well organized, and carefully chosen when used to explain complicated technical concepts to a wide audience.

 Poster should not exceed 3 feet in width and 4 feet in height (max 36” x 48”)

**3) Oral Presentation -** Each student should prepare to describe and discuss his or her exhibit, tailored

specifically to make the work understandable to a non-expert audience.

**4) Thoroughness**

 Does the project exhibit a thorough investigation of the topic?

 Are there indications of original, critical thought?

* All in all, does the project show creativity?

**Undergraduate Research Fair and Exhibition – Empirical Research Judging Rubric**

**Project Title:**

**Judge’s Name: First Author:**

**ASSIGN EACH INDIVIDUAL LETTERED ITEM IN EACH AREA FOR A CATEGORY SUBTOTAL, WHERE:**

**0 = Not Present 1 = Poor 2 = Average 3 = Very Good 4 = Excellent**

**1) CONTENT:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Rate the student’s poster content on the following:** |
|  | a. The title is specific and informative and all collaborators are acknowledged. |
|  | b. Scholarly sources were used and integrated effectively in the project. |
|  | c. All sources are cited in the text and in a Works Cited section. |
|  | d. The objectives and/or hypotheses are stated clearly and concisely. |
|  | e. The significance to the field and to society is clearly stated. |
|  | f. The methods clearly explain the study and are easy to follow. |
|  | g. The data and results have been interpreted and presented clearly and are easy to follow. |
|  | h. The discussion section effectively links findings to original research questions and hypotheses.  addresses major implications of the findings and suggestions for future research. |
|  | i. The discussion section contains a clear discussion of implications, limitations of findings, and future directions. |
|  | **1. Total Score for Content (add the scores for items a-i) (maximum possible for section = 36)** |

1. **DISPLAY:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Rate the poster’s visual appeal on the following:** |
|  | a. The exhibit attracts attention and is creative and visually interesting. |
|  | b The text conveys written information in a clear and concise manner, with no spelling and few grammatical errors. |
|  | c. Terms are clearly defined. |
|  | d Photographs, drawings, charts, tables, or graphs are well organized, understandable, and explain relevant concepts.  to a wide audience. |
|  | **2. Total Score for Display (add the scores for items a-d) (maximum possible for section = 16)** |

1. **ORAL PRESENTATION:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Rate the presenter (s) on the oral presentation based on:** |
|  | a The presenter(s) was/were self-confident, professional, and knowledgeable about the research and information being presented. |
|  | b. The presentation is understandable to a general audience. |
|  | c. The major points of the research were discussed in the oral presentation. |
|  | **3. Total Score for Oral Presentation (add the scores for items a-c) (maximum possible for section = 12)** |

1. **THOROUGHNESS:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Rate the presenter (s) on the oral presentation based on:** |
|  | a The topic is thoroughly investigated. |
|  | b. There are indications that original, critical thought went into the work. |
|  | c The project shows creativity. |
|  | **4. Total Score for Thoroughness (add the scores for items a-c) (maximum possible for section = 12)** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Grand Total - Add Items in the shaded area numbered 1 – 4 from above (Maximum possible = 76)** |