

Technosphere 2017

General Feedback

Middle School

Biotechnology

- If you list person's as resources, you need to provide their qualifications of providing information to the project.
- Display's should give an overview of topic with Pro's & Con's without going into great detail. Communicate in a more concise way!
- Never turn your back to judges to read from your display, use notecards if necessary. Always be prepared to give reasons for your views.
- The time taken to prepare displays, reports and presentation is seen and evident to all.

CAD Foundations

- Always create while keeping in mind that the person looking at the finished product knows nothing about the product. How will you convey the concept to them?
- Don't be afraid to use color to show contrast. Most are pleased with detail, but don't over do it.
- Be confident and sure about your work. Know your weaknesses, but also know your plan to overcome them. Never end with negativity.

Catapult Design

- Be sure to show how you tested your device and what changes you made.
- Show multiple sketches of your design process
- Make sure you Follow Size regulations
- Must use clear front report covers, Binders are no longer allowed

Challenging Technology Issues

- Slow down
- Look at the judges not your team mate

Chapter Team

- Practice public speaking beforehand
- Must have more discussion
- Must include 5 required items of parliamentary business
- President cannot make motions

Children's Stories

- Be sure to proof read & correct spelling and grammar
- No Handwritten portions
- Use eye contact with judges
- Use appropriate style of writing for problem. This was to be a narrative not non-fiction

Community Service Video

- Make sure to include required Copyright & consent forms
- Place flash drives in a sleeve or zip lock bag

Photographic Technology

- Follow ALL procedures and Regulations!

Environmental Engineering

- Consider more Sheet protectors to avoid back to back pages
- Consider NOT stating “Here in Virginia” Do not indicate school name or state
- Make sure you comply with Regulations that say “MUST”
- Don’t rock back and forth during interview
- Use note cards if prompts are needed, DON’T read your presentation

Essays on Technology

- Do not waste page space, running out of room is not good
- Save space for conclusion
- A Thesis makes or breaks an essay, it is the FOCUS of the whole essay!
- Remember to write the bibliography and include it with the essay
- Do not tell the reader what you are going to tell them about a topic, let them learn by reading the essay. Have a good point and support it.

Flight

- Include a separate page with photos of plane and label them and their parts.
- Flight logs need **DETAIL**
- Full Scale drawings: Use rulers when hand drawing
- Drawings **MUST** match planes

Junior Solar Sprint

- Only 2 displays showed much effort

Mass Production

- Most points go unearned due to lack of Focus on Specific Details and concise use of words – Don't use words Just to Fill the page.
- Target information to the required topics
- Make sure your product stands out by including some “Branding” of your product (Signage/Logo)
- Take time to research, develop ideas and fabricate with Quality
- Presentations had weak introductions
- Many presentations were just repetitions of the information in the portfolio, nothing new was presented. Expand on your ideas & add interesting detail.

Medical Technology Issues

- Don't try to do so much with your display, too much distracts.
- Practice your presentation, many were nervous and obviously had not practiced
- Parents, Chaperones and Advisors **MAY NOT ASSIST** in setting up for presentation.

Prepared Speech

- Lack of eye contact with judges
- Better understanding of the Theme
- Obvious lack of mentorship/Advising in preparation

Promotional Marketing

- Too many run-on sentences and short uneven sentences/Lack of flow
- Stay within size requirements
- Place equal effort on each product
- Onsite problem: Don't overcomplicate, follow the simple step by step basics....Less is more!
- Follow **ALL** regulations in the design brief

STEM Animation

- **Bad sentence structure (not starting sentence with capital Letter, capitalizing wrong words, subject/verb agreement)**
- **When using an acronym, you must define it**
- **Clarifying your topic**

Technical Design

- **Include ALL required portions of documentation**
- **Neatness counts!**
- **Label and Dimension drawings**
- **Include resources used**
- **Ensure your interpretation of the problem is clear**
- **Expand on the problem statement**
- **Use graphical representation for products, not just written description**

Video Game Design

- **Most submissions lacked required documentation or instructions for use**

High School

Architectural Design

- Landscaping should be secured to the base
- Practice interview skills and interview prior to conference
- Carefully & thoroughly read and follow ALL rules and regulations
- All Documentation must be in PDF format on a USB drive

Biotechnology

- Spelling & Grammar
- Proper format of citations, must use MLA format
- Displays must meet size requirements, some were over sized
- Need more creativity on Problems & Solutions

Chapter Team

- Stay on assigned topics
- Pay attention to appropriate attire/ Patch on blazers is required for ALL
- Be mindful to not waste time

Engineering Design

- **Checking in Late due to lack of printer available at conference center is unacceptable. Work should complete upon arrival!**
- **Students should study/review design principles**
- **Hand lettering should be carefully planned and use guidelines**
- **Be prepared to shorten your presentation or allow time that judges will ask questions**
- **Know the appropriate required attire**
- **Last minute, rushed work is apparent to judges**

Essays on Technology

- **Watch regulation length**
- **Include your bibliograpy**
- **Intro should “grab” the reader**
- **Use articles in supporting paragraphs**
- **Leave room for a conclusion**
- **LEAP resume needs to include the Be-Know-Do many were too vague**

Flight Endurance

- **Follow flight log, many missing columns**
- **Wheels must roll under the weight of the plane**
- **Follow ALL regulations and details in the brief**
- **Planes must meet size &weight restrictions**

Geospatial Technology

- Must use proper map format

Prepared Presentation

- Test equipment beforehand
- Powerpoint slide advance devices would enhance presentation
- Practice, Practice, Practice

Promotional Design

- Follow regulation on Folder size
- Cut Business card holder into Folder Reg. A-1
- Missing copyright checklist, required even if there was no copyright material used.

SciVis

- Check Spelling/Grammar
- Use MLA format
- Cite Sources using MLA format
- Storyboards need improving
- Add Page numbers to all pages
- Background noise is very distracting in Audio
- Maximum of 2 members for interviews
- Print is only allowed on one side of page
- Must use clear front report covers

Software Development

- Pay attention to number of allowed pages
- Don't read from your notes
- Wifi is Not to be used during competition

STEM Careers

- Follow design briefs
- Documentation must be clean & clear
- Know what you researched and your experience for the interview

Systems Control

- Capture all criteria items
- Put more substance in LEAP resume's
- Be specific in LEAP resume descriptions
- Make sure you meet specific criteria requested in Design Brief
- First meet solution criteria before expanding

Video Game Design

- Games must be of a EDUCATIONAL value and contain social content!