



How to Use the STL Science Fair Rubrics

There are two rubrics for each division; Science and Maker. Projects must declare if they are a Science project or a Maker project and will be judged using the corresponding rubric. These rubrics have been built specifically for the STL Science Fair, if you use them in your classroom, or modify them for a school or district fair please include the phrase "Modified from the STL Science Fair © Elementary, Junior, and Senior Division Rubrics."

STEP 1	Look at the category. Each section of the rubric looks at a different part of the project, such as the research question, methods, or presentation.
STEP 2	Choose a <u>category score</u> from 1–4. For each category, select the number that best describes the project. ● 4 – Advanced: Meets all expectations and goes beyond what is expected. ● 3 – Proficient: Meets expectations. ● 2 – Approaching Proficient: Partially meets expectations; some improvements are needed. ● 1 – Basic: Does not yet meet expectations; significant improvements are needed. The project must meet all the criteria to be awarded the point value. For example: A project meets two characteristics in the 3-Proficient category and one characteristic in the 4-Advanced category. This student should be awarded a 3-Proficient in the category because they have met all the characteristics of a 3-Proficient but not of a 4-Advanced.
STEP 3	Add a brief comment explaining why you gave the project that score. Point to something specific you observed in the project. You do not need to write a long comment. One or two specific sentences is usually enough. Good comments are: ● Specific: "The research question is clearly stated and testable." ● Helpful: "The methods are described, but more detail is needed about how measurements were collected." ● Connected to the rubric: Explain what you saw that matches the description for the score you selected.
STEP 4	Pay attention to the <u>category weight</u>. Not every category is equally important. The weight tells you how much that category counts toward the final score. For example: ● A category worth x2 has more impact on the final score than a category worth x1. ● A category worth x3 has three times as much impact as a category worth x1.
STEP 5	Score each category independently. Read the descriptions for each score and choose the one that best matches what you see.

Every effort will be made to minimize revisions to the published rubrics before competition, however, revisions to the rubrics that may not be published may occur before the STL Science Fair.