

## HELPFUL HINTS TO PREPARE FOR JUDGING

On Judging Day, the Judges are excited to meet you and talk to you about your projects. Below are some key points to a good presentation. You never know – you may teach them something new!

- Be positive and confident of your work. You have worked hard and know your project better than anyone else.
- Practicing ahead of time in front of a mirror, family members, friends, your class, or others is very important. Have them ask you questions if they don't understand what you are talking about. You want to make sure what you say is clear.
- Record yourself practicing with your display. While watching the recordings, you may notice habits or ways of presenting that you wish to change. Make sure you are speaking clearly and slow enough and don't forget to stand up straight and proud!
- Look interested in what you are doing and while talking to the judges. The judges and other interested people want to know what you have done and what you have learned.
- Try not to read from a script or try to memorize a speech. Your presentation should sound natural. Different judges may ask different questions so you should be prepared to talk about any aspect of your project and to answer their questions. Also, be ready to answer questions about your background knowledge on the topic.
- Answer all questions that you can. If you are not certain of an answer, you might say, "I'm not certain, but I think it might be..." Scientists don't always have all of the answers either, but they are willing to figure it out or find the answer.
- No chewing gum at all. Hard candies, such as Jolly Ranchers, are okay while you are waiting, but not when you are speaking to the judges. (By the way, make sure any wrappers are disposed of in trash receptacles). Per BPAC rules - No food is allowed in the Judging Hall.
- Dress appropriately and neatly. Wear comfortable shoes. Remember, you are representing yourself, your family, and your school at all times.
- Keep eye contact with your listeners during your presentation.
- Use your board display and any other paraphernalia as tools to help you present your work. Refer to your graphs, data, photos, or drawings, as necessary.
- Present your work enthusiastically. Make certain you guide the listener or judge through your project. Have notebooks and reports in clear view and refer to them in your presentation so that the listener or judge will be cognizant of the amount of time, work, and effort you have invested in your project.
- Address the judge by name using their title (Mr. Mrs. Dr), if possible.
- Learn from judges by asking them questions, or asking if they have additional information or suggestions that you might consider. Be sure to record any suggestions that they give you by noting them in your notebook.