

March 24-27, 2021

## Project Materials & Interview Guidelines for Virtual Competition

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In addition to required ISEF Forms (grades 6-12) or Elementary Forms (grades 4-5), **ALL students will be required to upload the following as part of the online registration:**

1. Profile Picture
2. Abstract
3. Project Board

Additionally, students *may* upload the following (not required):

1. Research Report
2. Three (3) Project Photos

### DEADLINES

**February 10, 2021** ~ Student **ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE** on [zFairs](#)

- Completed online registration INCLUDING Profile Picture
- ALL required ISEF or Elementary Forms
- Abstract
- Media Release
- Payment

**March 1, 2021** ~ **LAST DAY** to upload Project Boards, Research Report, and/or update Abstract

### Profile Picture

Students will be **REQUIRED to upload a profile picture**. This should be a current/recent photo taken from the chest up. There will be an area on the first page of student registration where students may upload their photo. (You can watch an instructional video [here](#)).

Profile pictures will be used as part of the virtual project showcase which will replace the in-person Open House usually held during Research Challenge. The virtual project showcase will allow family, teachers, and the public to view student projects.

## Abstract

Students will be **REQUIRED to COPY and PASTE their Abstract into the registration form.**

The Abstract pasted into the registration form should adhere to the following:

- NO MORE than 250 words.
- Summary of the project that includes a brief discussion of the question/rationale, hypothesis, methods, and results.
- Should NOT include student names or project title.
- Should not be divided into sections. An abstract should be written in paragraph form using complete sentences.

For more detailed instructions on writing abstracts please review this [presentation](#).

## Project Board

ALL students will be **REQUIRED to create a project board in PDF format and upload to zFairs.**

1. Go to this website: <https://www.posterpresentations.com/free-poster-templates.html>
2. Students may use any pre-made template OR the personalized template found on this site, **BUT may only use the following dimension options: “36x48” OR “Virtual”.**
3. Once students have downloaded their preferred template, the file will open as a PowerPoint.
4. Students will build their board in PowerPoint and **MUST include (at a minimum) the following sections:**
  - a. Header with project title and student name(s). NO OTHER personal info on board (i.e. school, grade, etc.)
  - b. Abstract
  - c. Rationale, Question/Purpose
  - d. Hypothesis
  - e. Materials and Methods
  - f. Data
  - g. Results
  - h. Conclusions
5. Students may add additional sections if required to adequately explain their work.
6. Style and content guidelines:
  - a. All photos, graphs, charts, etc. must be cited. If created by student, then one statement on the board saying “All images/graphics created by student”. If created by someone else, must properly cite source.
  - b. NO PHOTOS on board of any person other than student researcher(s).
  - c. NO QR codes or live links to other materials, videos, etc.
  - d. Use **12 pt OR LARGER standard font** (such as Times New Roman or Arial).
7. Once the board is complete, save as a PDF.

8. Upload PDF to zFairs under the file type “Project Board” (students can upload during registration or return to their profile and upload before the project board upload deadline).
9. Project boards will be viewable to the public as part of the virtual project showcase and will be viewed/scored by both category and special awards judges.

## Research Report (optional)

Students will have the option to upload a full report in support of their project board. The Research Report is not required but students may use it to provide further explanation of their project.

The Research Report will be viewable to the public as part of the virtual project showcase as well as during judging by both category and special awards judges.

We are not providing any guidelines for content and style of the research report with the following exceptions:

- Must be in PDF format.
- Must not include any QR codes or live links to other materials.
- Must not include any personal info other than student name(s).

Reports should be uploaded to zFairs under the file type “Research Report”.

*NOTE: a Research **Report** is different than the Research **Plan** that is required from all students as part of the required ISEF paperwork.*

## Project Photos and Project Description (optional)

These items will appear only in the Virtual Project showcase and will provide a more complete and engaging project profile.

Students may upload up to three (3) project photos to their account profile in zFairs. You can watch a video tutorial on how to do this [here](#).

The photos are an opportunity for students to share interesting or creative content depicting their experiment and or research process. They are not meant to replace any of the content that should be on the Project Board, simply another venue for sharing their research with the public.

- MUST be in JPG or PNG format
- MUST be content CREATED by the student researcher (example: photos of the student and/or experiment, graphs, charts, drawings, etc.)
- MUST not picture any person other than the student researcher(s)

During registration students will also be asked to include a Project Description. ***This should be 2-3 sentence description of the project.*** This WILL NOT take the place of the abstract. Students will copy, paste full Abstract elsewhere during registration.

# Virtual Project Showcase

An important part of Research Challenge is allowing students to share their work, not just with judges but also with their peers, families, and members of the public. We will be utilizing the **Virtual Project Showcase** to facilitate that purpose in place of our usual in-person Open House. Students should be sure to upload/complete all items so they have a completed profile to show off their hard work!

Below is an example of what each project profile will look like in the Showcase

The image shows a screenshot of a 'Virtual Project Showcase' interface. A central profile card is highlighted, titled 'Investigating Climate Change'. The profile includes a profile picture of a girl named 'Sally Sample', three project photos (one large and two smaller), a 'PROJECT BOARD' link, and a 'Description' of the project. The description reads: 'For my project, I investigated climate change by adding different amounts of baking soda and vinegar, to plastic bottles and measuring the change in temperature for each bottle.' The project is associated with 'Junior Earth & Environmental Sciences' and the ID 'JR-JENVR-0625'. Red callout boxes with arrows point to the profile picture, the three project photos, the project board link, and the project description.

Search sample

Category

Jeremiah

Finding the

W

JR-JCHEM-04

Sally S

Investigating Climate Chang

Junior Earth & Envi

JR-JENVR-0625

**Investigating Climate Change**

Sally Sample

**Profile Picture**

**3 Project Photos**

**Link will open PDF of Project Board**

**Project Description**

**PROJECT BOARD**

**Description**

For my project, I investigated climate change by adding different amounts of baking soda and vinegar, to plastic bottles and measuring the change in temperature for each bottle.

Junior Earth & Environmental Sciences

JR-JENVR-0625

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## Interviews (grades 6-12)

Student interviews will be scheduled for 8-12 minutes on Zoom.

Students will be interviewed once by a group of 3-6 judges.

Time is limited so all interviews will follow this basic format:

- First 2-3 minutes: Student will give a BRIEF introduction to their project
- Remaining time will be used for Q & A with judges

Judges will have already reviewed all of the project materials for each student before the interview so they will be familiar with the project and they will also have access to the project board during the interviews if they need to refer to it. Additionally, a shared Zoom screen will not be the best format for viewing the PDF project board, so students are not expected (or encouraged) to share their project board during this time.

Instead, during the 2-3 minute intro time, we suggest the following:

- Visual aids are not required, students can simply give a verbal summary of their project.
- A short (3-5 slide) PowerPoint presentation of the project would be acceptable to share.
- Demonstrations, videos, photos, or other materials integral to the project that could not be shared in the project board or report can be shown during this time.

### Interview Schedule:

- **Wednesday, March 24**, 9 am – 12 pm ~ **Junior Division** (all middle school students will be interviewed during this time)
- **Thursday, March 25**, 9 am – 12 pm ~ **Senior Division** (all high school students will be interviewed during this time)
- **Friday, March 26**, 9 am – 12 pm ~ **Grand Award Interviews** (top ranking projects from both divisions will be invited back for a second interview during this time)

**Top of Category Awards** will be determined based on Wednesday & Thursday interviews. **Grand Awards** (i.e. Top Junior Division & ISEF Finalists) will be determined based on Friday interviews

Note: **no interviews for Special Awards**. Judging of special awards will be done solely on review of project boards, abstracts, and project reports.

**INTERVIEW SCHEDULES:** Students will be sent instructions for logging onto Zoom and their scheduled interview time for Wednesday 3/24 or Thursday 3/25 no later than March 19. Interview schedule for Friday, 3/26 will be sent out no later than 5pm on Wednesday, 3/24 for Junior Division and Thursday, 3/25 for Senior Division.

**IMPORTANT INFO REGARDING ZOOM:** If a student does not have Zoom downloaded onto the device they will be using for interviews, they can download it [here](#). DO THIS BEFORE SCHEDULED INTERVIEW TIME. If students plan on sharing anything (PowerPoint, video, etc.) they should be familiar with [how to use the “share screen”](#) function before the interview. We will be holding optional tech sessions before Research Challenge where students can log in and test their device.

## Videos (grades 4-5)

In lieu of live interviews, students in grades 4 and 5 will submit a video explanation of their project. Students should record a short (no more than 5 minute) video of themselves summarizing the project.

Instructions for how/where to upload videos will be released soon.

**In addition to summarizing their project (Question, Methods, Results), ALL students should include answers to the following questions:**

- Why did you choose this project?
- What is the most interesting thing you learned?
- If you did this project again, what would you change to improve it?
- Why is this project important? What can other people learn or how can they benefit from it?

Students may use demonstrations, visual aids, photos, videos, PowerPoints, graphs, etc. to better demonstrate and explain their project. Have fun and be creative!

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade projects will be judged based on their project board, abstract, and video.

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