

The ISEF (used by TCRSF) Rules and Forms for 2025 can be found at <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/>

NOTES FOR RESEARCH PLANS AND RESEARCH PAPERS:

Abstract: An "abstract" in research is a concise summary of a research paper or project, providing a brief overview of the **study's purpose, methods, key findings, and conclusions.**

Use the ISEF Abstract form from the Rules and Forms Guide. It doesn't have to have a Seal.

DO NOT use cited material in the Abstract. It should be your own work.

BSL 2: If you are using material requiring a BSL 2 lab, Be sure to describe in your procedure the parts that require a BSL 2. You also need a Form 2.

Pictures, Photos, Graphs, Charts, or any Diagrammatic material must be **INDIVIDUALLY CITED** to show source:

(i.e.You **CAN'T** use a general statement such as “ All Photos taken by Student” !)

The Source of any material foot noted or cited must be in the Bibliography.

Bibliography: Online sources – URLs – Should have a Date of Access.

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Research Plan: If you use the Research Plan Generator, please leave out the parts that do not apply to your project.

NEW RULE for the Project Competition: In 2024-2025, students can no longer amend or add to their experiments or protocols after the regional fair. In the past, students could add experiments before state or other advanced competitions. Society for Science (ISEF and Thermo Fisher Jr Innovators Challenge) has begun a new rule - after your regional fair you may continue to gather more data, **but you may NOT add experiments or expand the scope of your research beyond the research plan accepted for the regional science fair (TCRSF). NO CHANGING PAPERWORK AFTER REGIONAL FAIR!**

Working in Outside Facility: (Form 1C) If the director of the facility is not signing your Form 1C, you need a letter from the Director saying you have permission to show your data to the public.

INTEGRITY: Honesty, objectivity, and avoidance of conflicts of interest are expected during every phase of the research. The project should reflect independent research done by the student(s), and represent only one year's work. The project should reflect independent research done by the student(s) and presented in their own words with proper citation, most particularly if artificial intelligence is used. The project may only represent one year of work and must not include fraudulent data, plagiarism or inappropriate use of AI in presenting work that is not their own.

Scientific fraud and misconduct are not condoned at any level of research or competition. This includes plagiarism, forgery, use or presentation of other researcher's work as one's own and fabrication of data. Fraudulent projects will fail to qualify for competition in affiliated fairs.