Judging criteria &
scoring sheet

Creative ability (individual 30%, team 25%)
1. Does the project show creative ability and originality in:
   a. The question(s) asked?
   b. The problem-solving approach?
   c. Data analysis/interpretation?
   d. Equipment used?
   f. Design and/or construction of new equipment?
2. Creative research should support an investigation and help answer a question in an original way.
3. Construction of equipment which involves the assembly of a kit cannot be considered to be creative unless some unusual approach or design was used.

Scientific Thought (individual 30%, team 25%)
1. Is the problem stated clearly and unambiguously?
2. Are clear objectives stated?
3. Was there a procedural plan for obtaining a solution?
4. Are all variables clearly recognized and defined?
5. If controls were necessary, did the student recognize their need and use them correctly?
6. Are there adequate data to support stated conclusions?
7. Are limitations recognized?
8. Is related research cited and understood?
9. Is further research warranted?
10. Does the solution present a significant improvement over previous alternatives?
11. Is the solution workable and/or economically feasible?
12. Was the solution tested under proposed conditions of use? (This may be difficult, but should be considered.)

Thoroughness (individual 15%, team 12%)
1. Was the scope of the original intent met?
2. Are conclusions based on a single experiment or on replication?
3. Are project notes complete (grades 6-12)?
4. Is there a familiarity with and understanding of the scientific literature in the field?
5. Is there an awareness of other approaches?
6. How much time was spent on the project?

Technical Skills (individual 15%, team 12%)
1. Does the student/team have the required skills (laboratory, computational, and/or design skills) to complete all of the work presented?
2. Where was the project completed? (Home, school, university, research facility)
3. What assistance was given and by whom?

Neatness & Display (individual 10%, team 10%)
1. Are data clearly presented? Results? Presentations?
2. Are important project phases presented in an orderly manner?

Teamwork (team projects only: 16%)
1. Was each team member fully involved with the project?
2. Does the final work reflect the coordinated efforts of all members?