

Things NOT To Do!

A list of things that **will** get you disqualified

Science fair rules may seem pesky, but CUSEF and SLVSEF have rules because we care about students. We aren't trying to stop students' fun; we are trying to keep students, families, and teachers safe. Rules also ensure that projects comply with international, federal, and state laws.

CUSEF and SLVSEF are affiliated with the Intel ISEF, so projects must follow all ISEF rules. The complete ISEF rules are found here: <http://www.societyforscience.org/Document.Doc?id=9>. CUSEF and SLVSEF also have a few additional rules.

The Intel ISEF website has a handy Rules Wizard that helps you know what, if any, additional forms you will need to fill out. The Wizard can be found here: <http://apps.societyforscience.org/isef/students/wizard/index.asp>

The following are not allowed. Doing these things **will** get a project disqualified. So, do not do them! Bolded items are the most frequent offenders.

Project

- Plagiarism, fabrication of data, or any other form of ethical misconduct.
- A demonstration project. (If your project is simply showing how something works, it is probably a demonstration. Change it into an experiment by selecting and manipulating a variable.)
- Failing to get SRC pre-approval *if* your project requires it.
- **Failing to complete and submit the required forms.** Be sure that you get all required signatures, and be certain that your dates are correct. If, for example, a form says you started your project on November 1st, but you didn't get SRC approval until November 15th, then we have a problem.
- Doing a project involving human subjects without IRB pre-approval.
- Doing a research project that causes more than momentary pain or suffering to vertebrate animals.
- Doing a project designed to kill vertebrate animals.
- **Growing microorganisms at home (bacteria, fungi, etc).**
- Doing a project designed to engineer bacteria that are resistant to multiple antibiotics.
- Working with a BSL 2 organism in a BSL 1 lab.
- Working with any BSL 3 or 4 organisms.
- Doing a project with hazardous chemicals, activities, or devices without a Designated Supervisor (or a Qualified Scientist, if using a DEA-controlled substance).

Project Display

Resolving problems with your display is usually possible, but it is best to simply avoid violating the display and safety rules. It is probably best to leave most of the things you might want sitting at your display at home. Use pictures instead; it **will not** negatively affect your judging scores and it **will** make your life much easier. The only things that you need at your project are your display board, lab book, and research report (if you have one).

The following are not permitted

- All of your project display, including notebooks, pictures, gadgets, and papers, must fit within these dimensions: no more than 30" deep, 48" wide, and 108" tall (from floor to top).
- No living organisms, taxidermy specimens, preserved animals, human/animal body parts or body fluids are permitted.
- No pictures showing vertebrate animals during laboratory procedures are allowed.
- **No food is permitted at your display.**
- No raw plant materials, living, dead, or preserved is permitted.
- **No chemicals (including water), no hazardous substances or devices, highly flammable material, sharp items, or glass are allowed your display.**