**Penn State Lehigh Valley**

**Undergraduate Research Symposium**

Presentation Judging Subject Categories

 **Arts, Humanities, Behavioral and Social Sciences**

 **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

Student research projects may be entered in only one subject category.

Presentation Judging Criteria

The purpose of a research presentation is to convey to a wide audience a research project's significance to scholars in the field and its potential significance to the general public. The research presentation will be judged on their quality in these areas:

**1) Content**

The presentation must include:

 Student name (or names, if more than one student is presenting)

 Collaborators, adviser(s), and department(s)

 A short title of the research project

 Funding sources (if applicable)

 Objectives

 Significance to the field

 Significance to society in general

 Methods

 Results, interpretation of results and conclusions, and directions for future research if the project is completed. “Other” creative exhibits must include discussion of meaning and/or reflections on the body of work exhibited.

**2) Presentation**

*The core of each research study is a presentation with text and graphics intended for a general audience.*

 The presentation should follow the general outline shown above and convey important information about the project.

 Language should be simple and descriptions brief. Excessive jargon should be avoided; necessary technical terms should be defined.

 Spelling and grammar must be correct.

 Photographs, drawings, charts, tables, or graphs should be simple, well organized, and carefully chosen when used to explain complicated technical concepts to a wide audience.

**3) Oral Presentation**

 Each student should prepare to describe and discuss his or her presentation, tailored specifically to make the work understandable to a non-expert audience.

 Description should be clear and concise and should include the major points documented in the presentation.

 The oral presentation must not exceed 15 minutes; judges will be instructed to observe this time limit.

 In cases where the student worked with collaborators, including his or her adviser, the presentation should clearly describe the student's role in the overall project.

**4) Thoroughness**

* All in all, does the project show creativity?
* Are there indications of original, critical thought?
* Does this project consider “all” the relevance points, issues related to the topic in hand?

**1) Content** - Assign each individual lettered item (a through h below) a score of 1–3, where 1 represents a low score and 3 represents a high score.

a) Is the title specific and informative and all collaborators acknowledged?

b) Have all necessary sources been cited in the text and referenced?

c) Is the hypothesis/objective stated clearly and concisely?

d) Is the significance to the field and to society in general clearly stated?

e) If applicable, does the work adhere to the “Process of Science” in its experimental design, implementation, and data analysis?

f) Has the data and results from the data been interpreted correctly?

g) Does the discussion/conclusion section address the major implications of the findings?

h) Is there a statement describing a “direction for future research”?

**Total Score for Content (add the scores for items a-h)**

**2) Presentation -** Assign each individual lettered item (a through d below) a score of 1–3, where 1 represents a low score and 3 represents a high score.

a) Does the presentation convey important information about the project?

b) Is the text written in a clear and concise manner, without spelling and grammatical errors?

c) Are technical terms clearly defined?

d) Are photographs, drawings, charts, tables, or graphs well organized, understandable, and carefully chosen to explain complicated technical concepts to a wide audience?

**Total Score for Presentation (add the scores for items a-d)**

**3) Oral Presentation -** Assign each individual lettered item (a through d below) a score of 1–3, where 1 represents a low score and 3 represents a high score.

a) Was the presenter(s) self-confident, professional, and thoroughly knowledgeable about the research and information being presented?

b) Is the presentation understandable to a non-expert audience?

c) Were the major points of the research discussed in the oral presentation?

d) Did the student(s) clearly describe his/her/their role in the overall project and gave credit to any collaborators?

**Total Score for Oral Presentation (add the scores for items a-d)**

**4) Thoroughness -** Assign each individual lettered item (a through d below) a score of 1–3, where 1 represents a low score and 3 represents a high score.

a) All in all, does the project show creativity?

b) Are there indications of original, critical thought?

c) Does this project consider “all” the relevance points, issues related to the topic in hand?

**Total Score for Thoroughness (add the scores for items a-c)**

**TOTAL SCORE**

Judging Comments