

# West Virginia State Social Studies Fair

2026 Judges' Score Card

Project Title:		Project Number:
Division:	Category:	Type:

## Judging Criteria

Score

## COMMENTS

- Strengths
- Areas of Improvement

<b>Abstract and Research Methods</b>	<b>0-5</b> points per line
▪ Purpose of investigation is well-defined.	
▪ Quality essential questions / research questions are used to drive the investigation.	
▪ Project employs appropriate research methods using a variety of valid sources.	
▪ Abstract is free of grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors. Abstract length does not exceed 3 pages plus bibliography.	
▪ Written summary provides a comprehensive overview of purpose, research methods, findings and conclusions.	
▪ Conclusions are supported by sound evidence and are tied to research questions.	
▪ Project goes beyond reporting facts. Student analyzes information; draws connections between ideas, events, or time periods; demonstrates the relevance of the research; or makes future predictions.	
▪ References are appropriately cited and documented in either APA or MLA format.	
<b>Abstract and Research Methods Section Total 40 Points Possible</b>	

<b>Oral Presentation</b>	<b>0-5</b> points per line
▪ Introduction captures audience's attention and provides a clear statement of purpose.	
▪ Presentation style is creative and well-organized. Use of notes is limited and does not detract from the presentation.	
▪ Student makes eye contact with judges and speaks in a clear and confident voice. Facial expressions and body language demonstrate interest and enthusiasm in the subject matter.	
▪ Presentation demonstrates a strong level of understanding of purpose, content, findings and conclusions.	
▪ Student uses elements of the physical display to support and/or enhance the oral presentation.	
▪ Closing provides an appropriate summary of the project's purpose, findings, and conclusions.	
▪ Responses to judges' questions demonstrate knowledge of purpose, methods, findings, and/or conclusions. Student responds appropriately if unable to answer a judge's question.	
<b>Oral Presentation Section Total 35 Points Possible</b>	

<b>Physical Display or Multimedia Presentation</b>	<b>0-5</b> points per line
▪ Display is self-explanatory and highlights the most relevant information.	
▪ Data and other information are arranged coherently.	
▪ Display is creative and/or unique.	
▪ Display is neat, well-organized and free from grammatical, spelling and punctuation errors.	
▪ Artifacts, charts, photographs, or technological devices are used effectively to enhance the display.	
<b>Physical Display Section Total 25 Points Possible</b>	

<b>Total Score 100 Points Possible</b>	
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<b>Place Awarded (circle):</b>	<b>First</b> Minimum Score: 90	<b>Second</b> Minimum Score: 80	<b>Third</b> Minimum Score: 70	<b>Honorable Mention</b>
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**RULE COMPLIANCE** - Rule violations may result in disqualification. JUDGES: Immediately report all suspected rule violations to the fair director or the director's designee. Violations must be reported prior to the conclusion of judging.

- ☐ Physical or multimedia display exceeds display area limitations (36"x30"x48"). If so, document actual size: W: \_\_\_\_" D: \_\_\_\_" H: \_\_\_\_"
- ☐ Project poses a safety hazard or contains prohibited items (see rules for a list of prohibited items).
- ☐ Other rule violation: \_\_\_\_\_