



STEM LEADERS OF THE FUTURE: ENGINEERING AND GEOSCIENCE CONTEST

VIDEO AND PHOTO TIPS

Wondering what it takes to make a great project submission that is clever, original, and inventive? Here's some tips to get you started:

TIP #1: BE PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR TOPIC

Choose a problem that you are enthusiastic about solving, coming up with a solution, and communicating your ideas. Make sure to show your excitement in your video or photo series!

TIP #2: PLAN AHEAD

If you are planning to make a video: start by writing a script and getting all your ideas down on paper. Think of what steps you want to film and what you want you want to show us.

If you are planning to create a series of photos: start by writing down all the steps that you want to photograph and thinking how to best show your invention through images.

TIP #3: RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH!

Don't underestimate the power of researching! It's best if you know your topic and project backwards and forwards before you even begin the video or start taking photos.

TIP #4: BE INNOVATIVE

The STEM Leaders of the Future contest is looking for students who can think outside the box. If you can make the judges think, "Wow, I didn't think of that!", you're off to a great start. Don't be afraid to try something new or different.

TIP #5: COMMUNICATE CLEARLY

One of the goals of the Young Scientist Challenge is to find a great science communicator. So, state your message clearly and efficiently in your video (don't be afraid to make changes). At the finalist stage, make sure to practice being interviewed extensively.

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TIP #6: CAPTURE YOUR AUDIENCE'S ATTENTION

Music sounds great, and people like looking at pictures! Using graphics and animations makes it easier to explain science concepts, and they just look cool. Show off your creative side – just be sure not to use any copyrighted material.

TIP #7: KEEP IT SIMPLE

You have a 2-minute limit. It is best to take one idea and explain it several different ways than to introduce several different ideas in such a short amount of time.

TIP #8: SHOW YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND TEACHERS

Have your friends, family and teachers watch your video before you submit it. They often have advice and ideas to help you improve. You can also get constructive criticism from a different point of view.

TIP # 9: FOLLOW THE CHECKLIST

Make sure you follow all the rules and guidelines. Is your video between 1 and 2 minutes? Is your file size too big?

TIP #10: HAVE FUN!

No, this is nothing new, but it is always important to have fun! Even entering the competition is a great life experience.