



Entry Video Tips

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America's Top Young Scientist of 2009



Pick a topic you're excited about: You should be doing this because it's *fun*! Judges look for kids who are animated about science, and who are also enthusiastic about educating others.

Find a way to incorporate your passion: I'm very interested in and adamant about saving energy, so I included that in my entry video on heat conduction by making my wood stove more efficient.

Keep at it: If you're having an idea-block, wait a day or two and look at it with fresh eyes. You'll find inspiration somewhere.

Make (and keep!) a timeline: Make sure that you have enough time to complete your video! Waiting until the last minute makes you rushed and stressed. If you have a plan laid out before you start anything, it helps keep you on track.

Have some background information: You can't explain something to people if you don't know enough about it yourself! Research is the basis for all ingenious solutions.

Take a look at other winning video entries: You might get inspired by what other kids have done in the past. Look at how past finalists present themselves and their ideas. Remember, the judges are looking for good science communicators.

Be innovative: The Young Scientist Challenge is looking for kids 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 good start. Don't be afraid to go out on a limb with something new.

Capture your audience's attention: Music sounds nice, 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.

Share your entry with others: Before you submit your video, get some feedback. Teachers, parents, and your friends are a great source of information. You could even show your video in class one day and ask for suggestions.

HAVE FUN! That is the most important part of science! Now, go show 3M and Discovery Education what you're made of!