



Entry Video Tips

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Pick an Exciting Topic: The Young Scientist Challenge is meant to be *fun*, so pick something you're really interested in. Enthusiasm is a key to success, but also to enjoying the experience.

Check Your Equipment: There's nothing worse than getting everything ready, and then finding out that a basic component is wrong. Make a quick trial video to make sure you know how to edit and save in the right file format.

Be Unique: Judges are always pleased to find a unique quality in a contestant. You don't have to be overly extravagant, but think of something special to add to your presentation.

Make a Timeline: Prepare ahead of time to keep on task. For instance, you could make a rough draft of your video, wait a while and edit it later. This is a great way to tighten up your message and create a quality video.

Research, Research, Research! Don't underestimate the power of researching! It's best if you know your topic backwards and forwards before you even begin the video. This also means looking at past entries from finalists and learning what makes a great presentation.

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.

Keep it Simple: One of the hardest parts is fitting your information in two minutes. It seems like plenty of time, but it goes by so quickly! So, keep it simple and add details later if necessary.

Stick With It: It's easy to get discouraged, but keep working at it. The best method is to work your hardest and hope to do well.

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