



# Entry Video Tips

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**Pick an interesting topic:** If only it were that simple.... Picking a topic can be the hardest part, but there are some things to remember when narrowing down your options. Pick something you're interested in. There is nothing worse than not enjoying what you are doing!

**Innovation:** Innovating is all about asking questions.... Who has a problem? What is the problem? How can it be solved? What do I need to solve it? .... Chances are that many of the ideas you may come up with have already been done. I went through at least a dozen. Don't give up! Keep asking questions.

**Plan ahead:** Start by writing a script and getting all your ideas down on paper. Storyboard your different scenes.

**Be creative:** Think about what looks good on camera. In the past, some people have made animations by showing a series of pictures or even used music in the video. You might want to have several different locations to shoot video to change it up. Figure out what you are going to wear. For example, if you are shooting in front of a blue wall, blue might not be the best color to wear.

**Speak slowly and clearly:** Remember, the judges are not only looking for an original innovation but also a science communicator. If they can't understand you, it won't matter how good your project is or how much effort you put into it. If you feel a little bit funny talking slowly, you're probably doing it right!

**Video-editing software:** Using video-editing software is not required for the challenge, but it can't hurt. Most computers already have movie-maker programs on them (Windows Movie Maker or iMovie). Before you even start shooting the video, I recommend playing around with the program you plan on using. Learn how to use it and make sure the program works with your video camera's file format. There are great special effects on some programs. You may be inspired to do something in your video that you never thought of before.

**Timing, Timing, Timing:** For many of you, fitting all your great ideas within two minutes will be tough. Try to go over the most important points and add details if there is time. There is one useful trick you can do if you are just a few seconds off. Some movie-making programs allow you to adjust the speed of the video. You can slightly speed up the whole video or just a segment to shave off a few seconds, but don't make it too fast!

**Make it fun!** Nobody wants to watch a boring video. Act excited! Jazz it up.