

U.S. National Judging Criteria

A project can earn a maximum score of 115 points. Each project is judged using six different criteria. Judges assign a score of 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest) to each category. This score is then multiplied by the weight factor assigned to that category. The scores for all six categories are then tallied to produce the total score.

1. Relevance

Score: ____ x 5 = ____

Relevance in terms of science, the environment, and society:

- Does the project target an important challenge in the water environment?
- Is the project scientifically relevant? Can the scientific level be related to basic, applied research and can the results be directly applied or implemented?
- Can the project contribute to the improvement of the quality of environment and/or the quality of life?
- Does the project propose innovative solutions to unsolved problems?
- Does the project increase the awareness on water issues?
- Does the project integrate environmental and societal issues?

2. Creativity

Score: ____ x 4 = ____

Creativity of the project in relation to:

- Posing a problem
- Solving a problem
- Analyzing the data
- Experimenting or investigating
- Mediating and making the affected parties aware of the problem.

3. Methodology

Score: ____ x 4 = ____

- Is there a clearly defined idea on which a result can be achieved?
- Is the problem well defined?
- In what way has it been limited?
- Has the work been planned accordingly?
- Is there adequate information upon which to draw conclusions?
- Have possible misinterpretations of the data been taken into consideration?
- Are there any new questions or suggestions for continued research?

