

Tips for Preparing Your Entry

The judges will be evaluating the originality, completeness, adequacy as a solution, impact and coherence of the entry. Please reference the following suggestions while preparing your entry:

1. **Clear.** Keep your writing clear and remember it's essential to articulate what your invention is and why it is an invention. The judges are interested in learning exactly what you are contributing to the ideas and technology in your field. Keep in mind, spelling and grammatical errors will affect how your entry is judged.
2. **Concise.** The more concise the better. To achieve the best score possible, cover all requested information, but avoid jargon and unnecessary materials that could detract from your entry.
3. **Convincing.** It's up to you to convince the judges that your entry is the best among the many innovative and imaginative inventions they will see. Remember, while our judges are experienced researchers, they may not be familiar with your unique project or specialty. Be sure to describe your work in a clear and positive manner. As an example, keep your work along the lines of what you've seen published in *Scientific American* or *Nature*.

Background and Overview

- Provide information on the state of the art in the field of the invention and current solutions to the problem (if existing).
- Provide an explanation on how the invention came about.
- Provide an overview of what the invention is and how it works.
- Provide all perceived strengths of the invention.

Initiative

- Explain how you (the student) were involved in the project; in particular, explain what aspects were handled by you, motivated you, researched by you, engineered by you, etc.
- Provide a clear explanation of the adviser/professional reference's role.

Novelty

- Discuss whether similar work to the invention has been conducted before.
- Discuss why your invention is novel.

Intellectual Property/Commercialization Status

- Explain whether any intellectual property protection has been pursued or discussed.
- Explain to whom the work is attributed for any IP or publications.
- Describe any current attempts to commercialize or license the invention.

If you have any questions about patents or intellectual property rights, consult your adviser/professional reference or your school's technology transfer office. Additional information on patents and protecting intellectual property can be found at [uspto.gov](https://www.uspto.gov).

Please visit invent.org/collegiate-inventors/apply for additional information about the Competition.