

HOW TO DEVELOP A SCIENCE FAIR:

ISEF Rules

- **These are the guidelines of research for pre-collegiate students.**
- **THEY ARE DECEPTIVELY TRICKY TO NAVIGATE.**
 - **Some projects are more intensively regulated than others. Some examples are projects involving:**
 - **Human Subjects**
 - **Vertebrate Animals**
 - **Hazardous Substances and Devices**
 - **Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents**
- **The teacher should read and understand the rules before beginning a science fair.**
- **The teacher should realize that understanding and applying the rules to projects are two very different jobs.**
- **Do not be intimidated by the rules.**
- **Encourage students to refine projects to provide for easier ruling concerning experimental design.**
 - **Example: If a project can be done with an invertebrate animal just the same as a vertebrate animal, then the researcher should choose the invertebrate since the rules are much less extensive concerning invertebrates.**
- **Attend Pre-Fair meetings for regional fairs that are designed to cover main points in the rules and new rules for the upcoming year.**
- **Attend Scientific Review Committee (SRC) meetings at the regional and state level to gain a greater understanding of the rules by applying them and collaborating with experienced teachers.**
- **Contact SRC chairs at the regional or state levels when you have questions regarding an interpretation of a rule application.**
- **Realize the rules are designed for the safety of the student and to protect you legally during the process. FOLLOW THEM EXPLICITELY. Serious rule infractions result in disqualification of the student from competition.**