

Things NOT To Do!

A list of things that **will** get you disqualified

Because CUSEF and SLVSEF are affiliated with the Intel ISEF, the rules and regulations used by CUSEF and SLVSEF must match those established for ISEF. Though they may seem pesky, these rules help ensure student safety and compliance with applicable international, federal and state laws. The complete ISEF rules can be found here: <http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/document/completerules2010.pdf>

The ISEF website has a very handy Rules Wizard, which asks a series of questions about your project and then tells you what, if any, additional forms you will need to fill out in addition to the ones that CUSEF and SLVSEF require. The Wizard can be found here: <http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/students/wizard/index.asp>

The following is a list of things, based on the ISEF, CUSEF, and SLVSEF rules, that are not allowed. These **will** get your project disqualified. So, do not do them! Bolded items are the most frequent offenders.

Elementary, Junior & Senior Division

- **Growing any microorganisms at home.**
- Working with a BSL 2 organism in a BSL 1 lab.
- Working with any BSL 3 or 4 organisms.
- Doing a project designed to engineer bacteria that are resistant to multiple antibiotics.
- **Failing to complete and submit the required forms.** Make sure that you have all the required signatures and be certain that your dates are correct. For example, if your form says you started your project on November 1st, but you didn't get SRC approval until November 15th, then we have a problem.
- Failing to get SRC pre-approval *if* your project requires it.
- Do a project involving human subjects without getting IRB pre-approval.
- Doing a project with hazardous chemicals, activities, or devices without a Designated Supervisor (or a Qualified Scientist, if using a DEA-controlled substance).
- A demonstration project. (If your project is simply showing how something works, it is probably a demonstration. Change it into an experiment by selecting and manipulating a variable.)
- Plagiarism, fabrication of data, or any other form of ethical misconduct.
- Doing a research project that causes more than momentary pain or suffering to vertebrate animals.
- Doing a project designed to kill vertebrate animals.
- Senior division forms are looked at VERY closely.

Project Display

- The entire project display, including notebooks, pictures, gadgets, and papers, must fit within the required dimensions of 30" deep, 48" wide, and 108" tall (from floor to top).
- No living organisms, taxidermy specimens, preserved animals, human/animal body parts or body fluids are permitted.
- No pictures showing vertebrate animals during laboratory procedures are allowed.
- **No food is permitted at the display.**
- No raw plant materials, living, dead, or preserved is permitted.
- **No chemicals (including water), no hazardous substances or devices, highly flammable material, sharp items, or glass are allowed at the display.**

Resolving problems with the project display is usually possible, but it is best to avoid violating any of the display and safety rules. Use pictures to show items not allowed at the project display; it **will not** negatively affect the judging scores and it **will** make life much easier. The only things that are required at the project in addition to the display board are a lab notebook. The student should bring their research report if they have one.