



2009

## What Judges Are Looking for in an Invention for Teachers & Students at Elementary & Middle Schools

### 1. Originality

Does the display state whether this is an invention or innovation?

Does the display of the Invention represent original, creative, age-appropriate thought?

Is the invention a novel or unique solution to an identified need?

### 2. Research and Usefulness

Was sufficient time and effort used to research the subject?

Was sufficient time and effort given to see if this invention had already been Invented?

Does the invention solve a problem or need—is it useful?

Does the invention have marketable value?

### 3. Building and Testing the Invention

Does the display show suitable and organized methods used to build and test the invention?

Did the student plan well, observe and record actions accurately?

Was the student's invention design appropriate for the use intended?

Were the student's methods and testing age-appropriate?

Did the student test the invention more than once?

Did the invention fill the original purpose—was it useful?

### 4. Thoroughness of the Invention Log Book

Is the log book present?

Does the log book contain a well-developed description of the student's invention process?

Does the log book contain drawings and descriptions of at least two different tests or two revisions to the initial idea?

### 5. Physical Display

Is the display more attractive more attractive than others in the same field?

Is there a clear progression from one invention step to another in the display?

Does the content on the display include the name of the invention, its function, operation and a list of materials/cost used for construction?

Does the content of the written description on the display clearly express the purpose of the invention and how it accomplishes its purpose—is it useful?

Is the written description complete and age-appropriate?

Does the work presented on the display board reflect what appears in the log book?

### 6. Model/Illustration

Is the illustration or model complete, with all parts neatly labeled?

Is the illustration or model a clear, attractive, visual explanation of the invention?

Is the model an actual replica of the idea?