The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Competition

Guide to preparing your video presentation
A word from the Competition team & Head Judges

All finalists have been asked to prepare a 5-minute project presentation video for judges to review remotely. After judges have reviewed all videos, we plan for them to call finalists to discuss their work on Friday 27 March. Judges will use both your video presentation and phone call discussion to complete a score sheet based on our judging criteria. Below are some top tips on how to film your video and what to include in your presentation.

The most important thing to remember is you have already done most of the preparation – the project presentation you will film should be the same presentation you had planned to deliver at The Big Bang Fair, only this time you will be talking to a camera. You have also already prepared to discuss your work with judges by getting to know your project inside out.

Making your video presentation

Length

Your video should only be 5 minutes long. You will need to be concise and ensure you cover the relevant information in this time. Judges will not review any videos past the 5-minute mark.

How to film

You can use any device with a camera and microphone to film your project presentation, including phones, tablets and laptops. Judges will not be scoring your film quality, so do not worry if you do not have the best equipment or latest editing software – this is not what we are looking for! The most important thing is judges can hear your presentation clearly and see any posters, diagrams and demonstrations you would like them to review.

Audio

It’s important to make sure our judges can hear you clearly throughout your video, as it’s your voice they want to hear most! Try to make sure there are no background noises, and that you are not too close to the microphone. Your instinct might be to talk as quickly as possible about as much as possible as soon as you start recording. This might make it harder for our judges to follow your presentation and could impact upon audio. Take a deep breath and speak clearly and slowly so that you can get all your important points across.

Zoom

There may be sections of your poster or diagrams you will want to focus on during your video as part of your presentation. If you choose to do this, remember to ensure the camera remains in focus so judges can clearly see and read what you want to show them.

Go incognito

If you do not want to appear on film, that’s OK! Have your camera pointing at your posters and talk clearly into the microphone. You could also create a video presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint, so judges will only see your PowerPoint slides and hear your narration.
What to include in your video

Go back to the judging criteria

Before you start to prepare your presentation, it is important to re-read the judging criteria, as this is what you will be scored on. All our judges will be looking for the following:

1. **Project concept**: What was the motivation behind your project and what were your aims?

2. **Project process**: How well did you plan and organise your work? What sort of experiments and research did you do? Were you innovative or creative in your approach?

3. **Project outcome**: How well did your project achieve its aims? Is your final product or report of a high quality? Does your project have a ‘real-world’ application?

4. **Personal skills**: How well did you deal with any problems or challenges? How well do you communicate your project? Does your enthusiasm shine through?

Create a checklist of each criteria to help ensure you address each point. You can even introduce each criterion during your presentation and highlight to judges what you will be discussing e.g. ‘Now we will move onto the project process…’.

For the more detailed judging criteria: https://competition.thebigbangfair.co.uk/media/7512/the-big-bang-uk-young-scientists-and-engineers-competition-judging-criteria.pdf

Start by saying hello

Introduce yourself (and your team if applicable) and introduce your project title. This helps to break the ice and structure your presentation a little more.

You don’t have to memorise everything

Memorising everything might seem like a good plan, but it might just be creating more work for you. Throughout your film, you may refer to a PowerPoint presentation and/or use flashcards if you have them.

Location

It is up to you where you decide to film yourself but ensure it’s quiet and you are not going to be disturbed. Consider standing in front of your poster display – can you bluetac them to the walls or to a board so the judges can see your wonderful work?

Diagrams are a helpful way explain complex concepts, methods and outcomes. If you have any graphs, tables or photos that will help judges understand your project, please include these in your presentations. Try to zoom in and focus on these so judges can read all the information clearly. If you have created a model, remember to show this in your film and include a demonstration if you have a working prototype.

Ensure all team members have a chance to talk and do support one another

The idea of filming may be very daunting for some, so it’s important if you are in a team to support your fellow team mates. Ensure every member has the opportunity to present - it’s another way of demonstrating those team working skills!

Let your passion and enthusiasm shine and enjoy yourself

This is the most important tip! Presenting to judges may feel like a daunting task, even when they are not in the room, but it is hopefully going to be a fun experience. Whilst presenting your project, let our judges know why this topic caught your interest, and how your project has expanded your knowledge, skills and passion for STEM. You all worked so hard creating wonderful posters, diagrams and decorations to make your stands as eye catching as possible. Don’t let the work go to waste and show us what you had planned! Display all the materials you had wanted to bring during your film and show the judges what had been waiting for them.