LEARNING ACROSS BORDERS
RULE BOOK

Program Overview

Structure

There are two age divisions in the program: Junior (grades 5-8, approximately ages 10-14) and Senior (grades 9-12, approximately ages 15-18). Teams will be registered in the division of the older student.

Registration

To participate in LAB, a team must be guided by a mentor and may consist of 1 or 2 students. To register, a team must either provide their relevant information to LAB or the organization leading the LAB national round. The same teacher can register multiple teams. Other specialists or parents that assist with guidance and mentorship do not need to be included in the registration. Following the LAB national rounds, all teams that qualify and will attend the Global LAB must register again with LAB.

Theme

Every year, LAB has an annual theme, which all project must be related to. Individual topics can be on an issue of local, national, or global scope, but the research and conclusions must be related to the theme. Project topics which are more specific can make the research process more manageable and allow for more in-depth understanding.

Written Material

Teams that qualify and participate in the Global LAB must prepare Written Material, which is given to the judges in advance of the Exhibition Day. This allows judges to read about student projects and prepare outside of the student presentation period.

The LAB Rule Book

General Rules

1. All team members must participate in the research and presentation of the project.

2. Projects submitted must be based on student research for the current contest year. Reusing past entries' data is not allowed.

3. Students are responsible for the research, design, and presentation of the project. While students may receive help and advice from teachers and parents, the students must play the active role in the entire process.

4. Teams are responsible for props and equipment needed for presentation. While well-designed presentation boards are important, the evaluation process emphasizes the content of the data, not the aesthetics of the board.

5. Items that are potentially dangerous are strictly prohibited. For projects that are on animals or organisms, the inclusion of live animals or organisms may violate laws if transferred beyond national borders.

Students must present their project in the form of an exhibit board. The exhibit should contain background information, research data, analysis, and conclusions.

1. The overall size of the exhibit board should be no larger than **100 cm wide, 75 cm deep, and 180 cm tall**. Participants should be aware that when designing their board, they will be **presenting to the judges in only one direction**. Boards with various formats (ex. tri-fold boards, pull-up banners, etc.) are acceptable if they follow the size requirement. **If tables will made available, LAB will notify all teams in advance.**

2. Media devices (ex. computers, tablets) are allowed but should not be used in excess. Judges want to see students present and the use of video in place of live student interaction is strongly discouraged.

3. Students are recommended to keep the amount of text on the exhibition board to a manageable amount. Too much text makes the exhibition board overwhelming; it is suggested that students follow a 500-word limit.

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Judging Process

At the Global LAB, a panel of several judges (consisting of educators, specialists, and scientists) will visit each team and listen to a short, 5-minute presentation on the project by the team. Afterwards, judges will ask questions to better understand the students' understanding of their work, how they undertook their research, and in what ways their project can be impactful. The primary purpose of the judging process is to provide constructive feedback to both students and their mentors on their project. **The evaluation process may differ at LAB national rounds.**

What are the Criteria?

1. *Project Theme:* Does the project theme relate to the annual LAB theme? Have students incorporated this theme into their research and presentation?
2. *Quality of Data:* Have students moved beyond basic background research and conducted primary research and collected their own data? Is the data presented and analyzed accurately?
3. *Presentation:* Is the presentation effective in terms of content and time? Can students answer the judges' questions effectively?
4. *Impact:* Are the findings of the project significant or do they restate already known facts? Have students thought about the purpose of their research and the ways their findings can be used in future efforts?
5. *Overall Approach:* Have students undertaken an analytical, systematic approach to their project? Do students display critical thinking and passion in their work?

Awards

At the Global LAB, judges will recognize the top performing teams in the junior and senior division in each of the 5 categories listed above under criteria. Each of these teams will receive special certificates and medals.

In addition, the Global LAB offers the following awards:

- *Audienc Award:* inspiring projects selected by teachers and mentors,
- *Best Place-Based Award:* best ties the annual theme to the team's home by addressing a local need and using local resources,
- *Chairman's Award:* best exemplifies what LAB wants to promote - students that are passionate about a project that is supported by strong research and has deep impact.

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Written Material

Teams that are participating in the Global LAB must submit Written Material. Written Material includes a title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography. Materials must be submitted electronically prior to the event and teams must provide THREE copies on the check-in day of the Global LAB.

1. Title Page: A title page is required and should follow the format provided by LAB. Teams must include the title of their project and their registration ID code.

2. Process Paper: All entries must include a process paper with four sections of 125 words or less, for each of the following questions:
    -   How did you choose your topic?
    -   What were your primary ways of conducting research? Please distinguish between primary research and secondary sources.
    -   How did you break down the work within your team?
    -   What is the most important discovery from your project?

3. Annotated Bibliography: An Annotated bibliography is necessary to show the judges what sources you used in your research. The annotations for each source can be up to 50 words and should explain the importance of the source and how it helped you understand your topic. Please limit your bibliography to 10 sources.

**We understand that you may have used many sources or have many thoughts to share with us in your process paper, however part of being an effective researcher is recognizing what is the most important information and highlighting that. We ask that you similarly focus on the most important sources and thoughts and share that with us to make your presentation concise.

**Because the bibliography is limited to 10 sources, we understand that there may be concerns about plagiarism, or the copying of another's research and framing it as one's own. Direct use of sources and information must be cited, but as your project should be driven by your own research, this should not be a problem.

JUDGES FORM

CODE					

JUDGING CRITERIA	Excellent	Good	Fair
Project Theme:			
Has a topic closely related to annual LAB theme			
Puts topic in context of place, human factors, etc.			
Quality of Data and Analysis:			
Has a deep and nuanced understanding of topic			
Uses primary sources (experiments, interviews, etc)			
Describes exhibited findings with supporting data			
Impact of Research:			
Implications: connects research to impactful findings			
Significance: shows importance of topic and findings			
Leadership: communicates a solution or action plan			
Presentation and Responses:			
Student(s) are able to present all material adequately			
Exhibit is organized, has visual impact, uses charts, etc.			
Student(s) are able to answer judges' questions			
Overall Approach:			
Strategically uses local resources and knowledge			
Displays passion and interest in own topic			
Can explain project process, obstacles, solutions, etc.			

COMMENTS:

SCORE:

_____ / 100

Judge's Signature