



LEARNING ACROSS BORDERS RULE BOOK

Program Overview

Theme

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

Awards

The LAB program is designed to enhance students' skills, knowledge, and strategic approach to problems. At regional LABs, participants will be given certificates and may be invited to the Global LAB. At the Global LAB, participants will be given certificates and medals. A select number of teams will receive awards in one of five categories (detailed below).

Registration

Teams of 1 or 2 students and a teacher must register with the LAB program. 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.

Division

Participating teams will be split into two divisions: Junior (grades 2-6, approximately ages 8-12) and Senior (grades 7-12, approximately ages 13-18). For teams with students from different grades, the team will be placed in the division of the older student.

Costs

There is no cost to register or participate in regional LABs and all interested participants are encouraged to attend. Travel and ground expenses for the Global LAB are paid for by each participant if they qualify. A select number of scholarships will be available for certain teams invited to the Global LAB.





The LAB Rulebook

General Rules

Rules

1. All team members must participate in the research and presentation of the project.
2. Projects submitted for the competition must be based on student research for the current contest year. Reusing past entries' data or past projects 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 process.
4. Teams are responsible for props and equipment needed for presentations. Teams should keep in mind that electrical outlets will not necessarily be available. While well-designed presentation boards are important, the evaluation process emphasizes the content of the data, not the aesthetics of the board.
5. During the evaluation process, judges will first 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.
6. Participants may wear costumes during the presentation of their project, but once again the focus of the evaluation process will be on the project itself.
7. 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.





The LAB Rulebook

Submission of 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 of the materials on the check-in day of the competition.

1. Title Page: A title page is required and should follow the format provided, including the title of the project and registration ID.
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 collecting research? Please distinguish between primary research and secondary sources.
 - How did you break down the work with 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 a 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 story concise and effective.

4. Plagiarism: 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.





The LAB Rulebook

Get Involved

Registration - Prior to participation, teams must register with the LAB organization and provide the relevant information on teachers and students.

Regional LAB - A regional LAB round will be held for every country. The written materials must be submitted electronically prior to the event and in-person during check-in. A select number of teams will be invited to participate in the Global LAB based on their performance.

Global LAB - Participation in the Global LAB will only be opened to qualified teams from the regional LAB. Separate registration and written material submission will be required for the Global LAB.

Category Rules

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

1. Size Requirements

The overall size of the exhibit board should be no larger than 100 cm wide, 75 cm deep, and 180 cm high. Participants should be aware that when designing their board, they will be presenting to the judges in only one direction.

2. Media Devices

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

3. Word Limit

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.





The LAB Rulebook

Entry Judging

The Advantages of the Evaluation Process

The LAB program includes an evaluation process to enhance the educational experience and benefit that students and teachers can receive. During the evaluation process, judges recognize the students' hard work but also provide feedback to allow students to reflect and continue developing their skills. Feedback can range from the project quality to research, analysis, interpretation, creativity, presentation, time management, and answering questions. The skills that students develop during the LAB program can be applied to numerous other studies and projects in the future. While the judges will recognize some teams specially for their work, we commend all students for participating in LAB and embarking on this process of personal skills development.

How does the Evaluation Process Work?

A panel of several judges (consisting of natural scientists, educators, or other specialists) will visit each team and listen to their presentation. In addition, they will ask questions to determine the students' understanding of their work, how they undertook their research, and in what ways their project can be impactful.

Consensus Judging

Judges follow a non-numerical, consensus (agreement) process. Judges will fill out individual evaluation forms which consists of feedback useful for both students and teachers. The panel of judges will also discuss amongst one another to determine which teams will receive an award for exceptional research and presentation.

Feedback and Awards

The primary purpose of the judging process is to provide constructive feedback to both students and their mentors on their project. Judges will also award a select number of teams an award for each of the primary judging criteria (quality of data, project theme, presentation, impact, overall approach). For more information on the specifics of each of these criteria, please see below..





The LAB Rulebook

What are the Criteria?

1. *Quality of Data:* Have students moved beyond basic background research to primary research and their own data collection? Is the data presented and analyzed accurately?
2. *Project Theme:* Does the project theme relate to the annual LAB theme? Have students incorporated this theme into their research and presentation?
3. *Presentation:* Is the presentation effective in terms of content and time? Can students respond to the judges' questions?
4. *Impact:* Is the project impactful or does it restate already known facts? Have students thought of the purpose of such research and the ways it can assist in future efforts?
5. *Overall Approach:* Have students undertaken an analytical, systematic approach to their project? Do students display critical thinking and varied methodology in their work?

Copyright

The LAB program will be using pictures of the event as well as student presentations for promotional materials. Please provide us with advance notice if you would not like to be included in such materials.

Checklist

- Team of 1 or 2 students and a teacher are registered with the LAB program.
- Exhibit is no larger than 100 cm wide, 75 cm deep, and 180 cm high when displayed.
- 3 copies of the written materials (title page, process paper, annotated bibliography) should be provided at check-in as well as submitted online prior to the event.

2019 Schedule

Online Registration Stage

- January - May, official registration with the LAB program for regional LABs
- May - June, registration for the Global LAB

Preliminary Contest Stage

- April - May, Regional LABs

Final Contest

- The Global LAB is tentatively set for mid-July in Cambodia.

