

Top NYCSEF Scientific Review Committee (SRC) Problems

1. Incomplete project summary and/or abstract
 1. Must include all required sections, including risk assessment
 2. Procedure must be appropriate to answer research question
 3. Must have all work site information completed
 4. Abstract must reflect only student's work for the current year.
2. Vertebrate animal projects without proper SRC or IACUC approval or lacking appropriate detail in the research plan. (Form 5A or 5B).
3. Human participant projects without evidence of proper prior approval or informed consents. (Form 4 – All boxes must be checked. Informed consent form may also be required.)
4. Projects involving the culture of potentially-pathogenic and pathogenic agents without appropriate detail about materials cultured, methods, or location of culturing and storage. (Form 6A and 6B)
5. Continuing projects without enough detail in the research plan to demonstrate significant progress, including an abstract that is often too similar to the previous year's. (Form 7 plus previous year's 1A, abstract and research plan)
6. Projects that have eligibility questions regarding either the number of students involved in the project (team to individual or too many team members), the longevity of the research involved, or the age of the participants. (Form 1B – Each team member must submit separate 1B.)
7. Missing Risk Assessment (Form 3) for hazardous chemicals, equipment, or other potential hazards. Description of safety precautions taken must be included.
8. Projects that are not in compliance with the ISEF and NYCSEF ethics statement and general requirements, including plagiarism, forgery, use or presentation of other researcher's work as one's own and fabrication of data.
9. Projects that are not designed to answer the research question, or that are a repeat of a project whose answer is already known.