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Reasons for Failing to Qualify at Intel ISEF

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Most Common Reasons for Projects to Fail to Qualify at Intel ISEF

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1. Human, vertebrate animal, or PHBA studies that did not have preapproval

- Need IRB preapproval for human participant studies
- Need SRC or IACUC preapproval for vertebrate animal studies
- Need SRC or IBC preapproval for PHBA studies

2. Prohibited Vertebrate Animal Studies

- Studies done at home/school/field that should have been done at a regulated research institution
- Studies that caused more than momentary pain or suffering or that were designed to kill
- Induced toxicity studies
- Predator/vertebrate prey experiments
- Studies where student performed euthanasia on a vertebrate animal

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- Studies with an animal death in any group or subgroup due to the experimental procedures
- Studies where animals have a weight loss greater than or equal to 15%
- Studies where there was an inappropriate restriction of water or food
- Studies treated as embryonic studies that were actually vertebrate studies

3. Prohibited Studies using Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents (PHBA's)

- Microorganisms were cultured at home
- BSL-2 studies (including opening plates or containers of unknown microorganisms) done in a BSL-1 lab
- Studies using human and other primate established cell lines without SRC pre-review and approval

4. Prohibited Human Participant Studies

- Studies where the IRB required written documentation of consents which were not obtained
- Studies where the student used surveys/questionnaires without IRB pre-review and approval

5. Eligibility Problems

- Student worked with a partner or team but competed as an individual, or vice versa
- Project was more than 1 year in length or was too old
- More than three students on a team

6. Scientific Misconduct

- Plagiarism
- Student presented mentor's research as his/her own
- Falsification of data

7. Other problems that may result in an FTQ

- Continuation study which was merely a repeat of a previous project conducted by the student
- Student removed or added items to the project display which he/she had been previously told to change

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