

How to Judge

Thank you for helping out with the Pennvention competition as a judge for the Second Round. Judging is divided up into three components to help teams structure their ideas to be most successful. Each component is scored out of 10, **with 10 being the highest score, and 1 being lowest.**

The three components are detailed below.

1) Presentation Score

A good presentation will be engaging, will involve team members, and should demonstrate the product in its concept or prototype stage. The presenter(s) should give a presentation directed towards a generalist audience, and technical explanations should be given in layman's terms.

The presentation should not be a video of the team members reading slides, but teams can certainly use PowerPoint/other software to supplement their oral delivery of the presentation.

2) Innovation Score

These ideas should not be judged on the basis of a business model innovation (i.e. e-commerce, etc) if they have one. Rather, they should be judged on the merit of the underlying technical innovation of their product. A good test for technical innovation is if the product is technically difficult to reproduce. Is this a patentable innovation? Or are there already other very similar products on the market?

Another criteria of product innovation is how well a product fills a given need. An innovative submission can have a very small target audience (e.g. niche medical device) but still be extremely effective for that audience.

If the product is a webapp, does the idea make use of some sort of sophisticated proprietary algorithm or unique computer science concepts (Deep Learning, Machine Learning, etc)?

3) Plan Score

A good submission will have outlined expected objectives and hurdles for the next few months, and will also have addressed how previous milestones were reached for the competition in the past month.

Competitors were instructed to discuss how they would use prize money for Pennvention and give a detailed breakdown of how this award money will be used. Students were instructed to include all expected costs in their submission. If no costs were included, they should not receive above a 5 for this category.

The slides should include a timeline for technical development. Optionally, the team may include business development and marketing landmarks, but these should not factor into the score.

Questions?

Should you have any issues with judging, please contact us at pennvention@gmail.com.