



Tips for Preparing Your Entry

The judges will be evaluating the originality, completeness, adequacy as a solution, impact and coherence of the entry. Please reference the following suggestions while preparing your entry:

1. **Clear.** Keep your writing clear and remember it's essential to articulate what your invention is and why it is novel. The judges are interested in learning exactly what you are contributing to the ideas and technology in your field. Keep in mind that spelling and grammatical errors will affect how your entry is judged.
2. **Concise.** The more concise the better. To achieve the best score possible, cover all requested information, but avoid jargon and unnecessary materials that could detract from your entry.
3. **Convincing.** It's up to you to convince the judges your entry is the best among the innovative and imaginative inventions they will see. While our judges are experienced researchers, they may not be familiar with your unique project or specialty. As an example, keep your work along the lines of what you've seen published in Scientific American or Nature.

Background Overview

- Provide information on the state of the art in the field of the invention
- Provide an explanation on how the invention came about, what the invention is and how it works
- Provide all perceived strengths of the invention

Initiative

- Explain how you (the student) were involved in the project; in particular, explain what aspects were handled by you, motivated by you, researched by you, engineered by you, etc.
- Provide a clear explanation of the adviser/professional reference's role

Novelty

- Discuss whether similar work to the invention has been conducted before and why your invention is novel

Intellectual Property/Commercialization Status

- Explain whether any intellectual property protection has been pursued or discussed
- Explain to whom the work is attributed for any IP or publications
- Describe any current attempts to commercialize or license the invention

If you have any questions about patents or intellectual property rights, consult your adviser/professional reference or your school's technology transfer office. Additional information on patents and protecting intellectual property can be found at [uspto.gov](https://www.uspto.gov). Please reach out to collegiate@invent.org with questions about the Collegiate Inventors Competition®.