

FAQ ABOUT THE NEW INTEL ISEF CATEGORIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL PROJECTS

- 1) How many categories are there for high school projects this year?
 - There are now 17 categories for projects.

- 2) Why were changes made in the categories?
 - The new category arrangement better represents current scientific research and knowledge.
 - The new arrangement allows judges to predict better the projects they will be viewing.
 - The new arrangement will enable similar projects to be judged by the same group of judges.

- 2) Will the regional fairs and Intel NWSE (state fair) all use the new categories this year?
 - Yes, all the fairs will use the new categories.

- 3) What are the major differences this year from previous years?
 - Cellular and Molecular Biology has been added as a category.
 - Energy and Transportation has been added as a category.
 - Astronomy (stars) is now with Physics.
 - Planetary science is now with Earth Science.
 - Engineering has been divided into two categories.
 - Environmental Science has been divided into two categories.

- 4) How can students decide which category is right for their project?
 - Look carefully at the list of subcategories under each category.
 - Use a title that clearly fits within a category or subcategory.
 - Write an abstract that clearly states what the scientific question or engineering goals are and what methods are used to answer them.
 - When an organism is used, give both a scientific name and a common name.
 - Think of five “key words” that are important to the project. These key words should relate to a category and subcategory.

- 5) If there is an unresolved question about category selection for a particular project, how can we get advice?
 - Please contact Dr. Linda Mantel, Executive Director of NWSES, at mantelh@pdx.edu or 503-725-8748.