

Display & Safety Pre-Check Form

Required for ALL student exhibitors

Deadline to upload completed form to zFairs is **March 1, 2027**



Project displays will undergo an official Display & Safety Inspection during set-up night at Research Challenge. In order to be cleared for competition, the display must comply with the display and safety regulations found on pages 3 – 9 of this document.

Students, along with their parent/guardian and/or teacher, are now required to conduct a display and safety pre-check on their project displays BEFORE arriving on set up night for Research Challenge. **If students are diligent in ensuring their displays are in compliance with ALL regulations BEFORE arriving to set up, this should ensure a smoother and faster process for everyone!**

STEPS:

1. Review safety and display regulations on pages 3 – 9 of this document.
2. Check your project display to ensure your display complies with all regulations listed.
3. Complete the check list on pages 1-2.
4. Student and parent complete and sign bottom of page 2.
5. Upload completed form to zFairs (**only pages 1-2 must be uploaded**) on or before 03/01/27.

After reviewing the regulations along with your project display and making any necessary adjustments, check the following boxes to attest that your display is in compliance:

Note: “Display” means the presentation board along with ALL other supplemental items.

☐	My name does not appear on the front of my board. Other items (notebook, papers, abstract, etc.) do not have any personal information other than name, school and grade (if any).
☐	My display is within 30” deep, 48” wide, 94” high. All project materials fit within these dimensions.
☐	ALL graphics are properly cited. Any graph, photo, or other image on the project display whether created by the exhibitor or not (including those created using AI), must be individually cited. If the graphic was obtained on the internet, a URL or DOI must be provided. Citations must be displayed alongside the graphic or in a vertically displayed reference list. See pages of this document for more guidance.
☐	Any photographs are only of myself; OR, if of other people, their faces are obscured OR I have obtained written consent to display their photo on my display.
	My display includes a digital display : ☐ YES ☐ NO <i>If yes, the entirety of any digital display/device (i.e. video) MUST be shown during inspection for approval. If a laptop is a part of the display, exhibitor must provide a laptop lock and demonstrate that it can be secured to the table. Laptops with no lock, tablets or phones used for digital displays that cannot be secured are the sole responsibility of the exhibitor. Research Challenge staff is not responsible for any loss, damage or theft.</i>
☐	I have reviewed the electrical regulations on page 4 of this document and attest that either my display does NOT have electrical components or, if it does, it complies with all listed regulations.
☐	I have reviewed the laser regulations on page 4 of this document and attest that either my display does NOT have laser components or, if it does, it complies with all listed regulations.
☐	My display does NOT have the following PROHIBITED items:
	☒ Website links or QR codes to other materials, videos, etc. (unless as part of a citation)
	☒ Brand names, logos, copyrighted/trademarked images (unless integral to the project)
	☒ Sharp edges or tripping hazards

	✗	Glass (including light/heat sources) or other sharp items
	✗	Flames, highly flammable materials or materials that were previously flame-tested
	✗	ANY liquids, including water
	✗	Human or animal food
	✗	Soil, sand, rock, cement, concrete and/or waste samples
	✗	Living organisms including but not limited to: • Taxidermy specimens or otherwise preserved animals or animal parts • Plant materials • Human/animal parts or body fluids • Microorganisms
	✗	Any other hazardous substances or devices including but not limited to: • Poisons/drugs • Firearms/weapons/ammunition/reloading devices • Grease/oil • Sublimating solids such as dry ice • Any apparatus with belts, pulleys, chains or moving parts with tension or pinch points that are not appropriately shielded. • Drones or other flying apparatus unless the power is disabled. • Heat generating light sources • 3D printers unless the power source is removed • Inadequately insulated apparatus capable of producing dangerous temperatures • Items that may have contained or been in contact with hazardous chemicals • Batteries with open-top or wet cells

Please check the following:

I have read the display and safety regulations on pages 3-9 of this document.

☐

Student Exhibitor

☐

Parent/Guardian

I understand that during official inspection at Research Challenge set-up night, my display must comply with all safety and display regulations in order to be cleared to compete.

☐

Student Exhibitor

☐

Parent/Guardian

I understand that I must bring ALL parts of my project display to set-up night for inspection. This includes my project board, any notebooks, research paper/abstracts, any apparatus, models or other display items. There will be limited opportunity for students to add materials to their display after inspection.

☐

Student Exhibitor

☐

Parent/Guardian

I understand that if my display does not comply with the display and safety regulations during the official inspection at Research Challenge, I will have the opportunity to correct it on-site; however, I further understand that this will result in a longer set-up time for myself.

☐

Student Exhibitor

☐

Parent/Guardian

Student Signature

Student Printed Name

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Date

DISPLAY & SAFETY REGULATIONS

The following regulations must be adhered to by ALL exhibitors. **Knowledge of Display & Safety regulations is the responsibility of the Student Exhibitor and Adult Sponsor(s).** The Display & Safety Committee may require exhibitors to make revisions to conform to the regulations.

Final Display & Safety inspection will take place during registration/set-up night at Research Challenge. The Display & Safety Inspectors and Research Challenge staff will make the final determination of project display compliance based on the rules and regulations listed here. If a display is found to be out of compliance during the official inspection, the exhibitor will have the opportunity to correct the display on-site. Research Challenge will provide SOME basic supplies for corrections or adjustments.

Note: Items may be removed from a display by Research Challenge staff at any time and without consent if they pose a safety risk. *(Removed items will be photographed and held for exhibitor to pick up during project removal).*

GENERAL DISPLAY & SAFETY REGULATIONS:

The project display MUST NOT have any of the PROHIBITED ITEMS as described below.

Exhibitor name CANNOT appear on front of display board. Exhibitor name, school and grade may appear on notebooks, research paper, etc. No other personal information may be shown anywhere on display.

Display Dimensions and Construction:

- The display is within 30" deep; 48" wide; 94" from the floor to the top of project (or 64" from top of table). ALL project materials fit within the given dimensions.
- The display items and backboard are self-standing and stable, or secured to table.
- All items on display board are attached securely.
- All sharp edges on project are removed or protected. No tripping hazards are present.

ALL graphics are properly cited. Any graph, photo, or other image on the project display whether created by the exhibitor or not (including those created using AI), **must be individually cited.** If the graphic was obtained on the internet, a URL or DOI must be provided. Citations must be displayed alongside the graphic or in a vertically displayed reference list.

Display of photographs other than that of the exhibitor must have a photo release signed by the subject, and if under 18 years of age, also by the guardian of the subject (these forms must be available upon request but shall not be displayed) **OR** all faces are blacked out, covered, or otherwise obscured.

Digital Display/Devices – Exhibitors using a digital display/device (i.e. video) **MUST** show the entirety of the content during inspection for approval. If a laptop is a part of the display, exhibitor must provide a laptop lock and demonstrate that it can be secured to the table. Laptops with no lock, tablets, phones used for digital displays that cannot be secured are the sole responsibility of the exhibitor and Research Challenge staff is not responsible for any loss, damage or theft.

Websites or QR codes to other materials, videos, etc. are not allowed. Only URLs used for citations are allowed.

ITEMS NOT ALLOWED ON DISPLAY

Photographs of these items are allowed as long as they are appropriate and not deemed offensive by Display & Safety inspectors.

Living organisms, including plants	Glass (including light/heat sources)
Taxidermy specimens or parts	Preserved vertebrate or invertebrate animals
ALL chemicals including water. Absolutely no liquids can be utilized in the project display.	Flames and highly flammable materials. Any materials that were previously flame or fire tested.
Plant materials (living, dead, or preserved) that are in their raw, unprocessed, or non-manufactured state	Any apparatus with belts, pulleys, chains, or moving parts with tension or pinch points that are not appropriately shielded
Human or animal food	3D Printers unless the power source is removed
Human/animal parts or body fluids	Batteries with open-top cells or wet cells
Soil, sand, rock, cement, concrete, and/or waste samples, even if permanently encased in acrylic	Inadequately insulated apparatus capable of producing dangerous temperatures
Sharp items (examples: syringes, needles, pipettes, knives)	Any display items that are deemed distracting (i.e. sounds, lights, odors, etc.)
Items that may have contained or been in contact with hazardous chemicals (Item may be permitted is professionally cleaned and documentation for such cleaning is available)	All hazardous substances or devices (examples: poisons, drugs, firearms, weapons, ammunition, reloading devices, grease/oil and sublimating solids such as dry ice)
Drones or any flight capable apparatus unless the propulsion power source is removed	Brand names, logos, copyrighted /trademarked images UNLESS integral to the project
Incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs or any other heat generating light source	Any apparatus or project material deemed unsafe by the Display & Safety Committee

ELECTRICAL REGULATIONS

Note: when exhibitor is not at display, all electrical power must be disconnected or switched off.

Electrical power supplied to the project is standard 120 Volt, AC single phase, 60 Hz.
Power strips/surge protectors and extension cords must be UL-listed, in good condition, and unmodified.
Electrical devices must be protectively enclosed. Any enclosure must be non-combustible. All external non-current carrying metal parts must be grounded.
Energized wiring, switches, and metal parts must have adequate insulation. Over-current safety devices (ex: fuses) must be inaccessible to anyone other than the exhibitor.
Exposed electrical equipment or metal that may be energized must be shielded with a non-conducting material or with a grounded metal box to prevent accidental contact
An insulating grommet is required at the point where any wire or cable enters any enclosure.
No exposed live circuits over 36 volts are allowed.
There must be an accessible, clearly visible on/off switch or other means of quickly disconnecting from power source.

LASER/LASER POINTER REGULATIONS

Any Class 1, 2, 3A, or 3R lasers are allowed to be used RESPONSIBLY. No other lasers are allowed.
Laser beams may not pass through magnifying optics such as microscopes and telescopes.
Lasers must be labeled by the manufacturer so that power output can be inspected. Lasers without labels will NOT be permitted.
Use of handheld lasers is discouraged.
Lasers will be confiscated with no warning if not used in a safe manner.

Regeneron ISEF D&S Graphic Credit Guidance

Rules:

The following document is intended to provide examples of proper graphic citation according to the ISEF Display & Safety Rules:

- ALL graphics that are created by the Finalist MUST BE properly cited individually and include the program or software utilized to create the graphic using statements such as “Photo taken by Finalist”; “Image created by Finalist using . . .”; Graph created by Finalist using . . .”; Chart created by Finalist using . . .”; or “Data Table created by Finalist”; “Logo created by Finalist.”
- ALL graphics not created by the finalist(s) MUST BE properly cited individually (APA format is preferred). If the graphic was obtained via the Internet then a URL must be provided (digital object identifiers are acceptable in place of long URLs). This applies even if the license under which the graphic was obtained does not require credit or citation.
- A citation must be provided alongside the graphic or in a vertically, numbered displayed reference list.

Additional Guidance:

How To Cite Graphics Created by the Student Researcher:

- Be sure to include that you, the student researcher, created the image.
- If you used third-party software (including but not limited to BioRender, Canva, Powerpoint, R, etc.) to create your image, you need to mention the name of the program.
- Always mention the year the graphic was created.
- If you have published this graphic (which means it has a source), you should cite this image as “Graphic created by the student researcher,” followed by the citation for your publication where the image appears. This is called self-citing.

How To Cite Graphics Created by Someone Else:

- Every graphic that you did NOT create must be properly cited.
- If the graphic was obtained via the Internet, then a URL must be provided (digital object identifiers are acceptable in place of long URLs). This applies even if the license under which the graphic was obtained does not require credit or citation.
- If you are using a graphic that someone in your lab created, give them proper credit.
- To cite an unpublished graphic that someone else created, include the creator's name, title of the graphic, the year it was created and the source of the graphic/institution of the creator.

How to cite graphics created or modified by AI:

- All citations for graphics created or modified by AI must include the AI model used and the date the graphic was created or modified.
- For graphics which were modified by AI, the original graphic must be cited according to the guidance above.

Graphic Example	Proper Citation:
Graphic obtained from the Internet under creative common license (CC 2.0): Note: The image and citation formats below were sourced from APA's Clip Art or Stock Image References Guidelines: https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/examples/clip-art-references	 Figure 1: Lava the sled dog. From Lava [Photograph], by Denali National Park and Preserve, 2013, Flickr (https://www.flickr.com/photos/denalinps/8639280606/). CC BY 2.0.
Graphic obtained from the Internet under creative common license (CC 2.0). Graphic Citation using a Reference List: Note: A reference list may be used for any graphic citation.	 Figure 1: Lava the sled dog. [1] <u>Graphic Reference List:</u> [1] Denali National Park and Preserve. (2013). Lava [Photograph]. Flickr. https://www.flickr.com/photos/denalinps/8639280606/

Graphic created by finalist using
Canva/BioRender/Microsoft Excel/R/Any third-party
software.

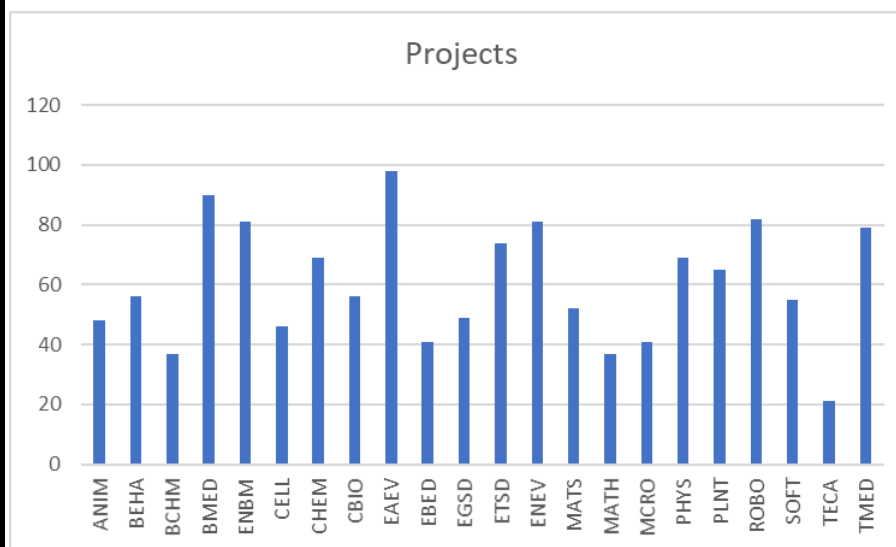


Figure 1: Number of projects per ISEF category.
Graph created by finalist using Excel, 2024.

Graphic created by finalist using
Canva/BioRender/Microsoft Excel/R/Any third-party
software.

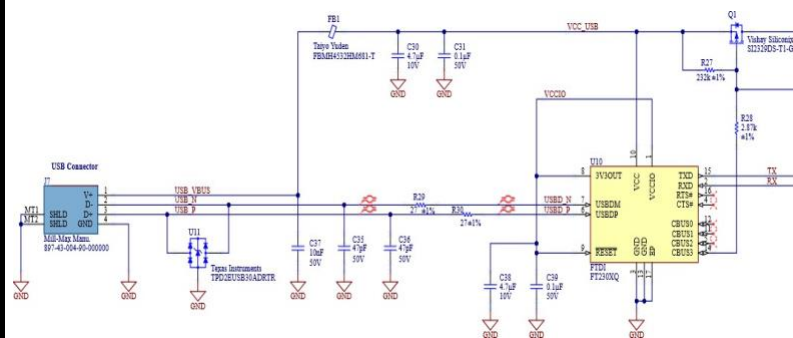


Figure 1: Schematic of USB Interface
Graphic created by finalist using Altium Designer, 2024.

Photo taken of team by another individual.



Figure 1: Finalists Building Electronics Interface Unit
Image taken of finalists by finalist's parent, John Doe, 2024.

Graphic created by AI.



Figure 1: Fake Lab Bench generated by ChatGPT.
Graphic created on November 7, 2025 using OpenAI GPT-5.

Graphic modified by AI.



Figure 1: Lava the sled dog with a red nose.

Original image from Lava [Photograph], by Denali National Park and Preserve, 2013, Flickr (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/denalinps/8639280606/>). CC BY 2.0.

Modified by GPT-5 by OpenAI on November 12, 2025.