Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

Hudson Data Jam Competition – Judging Rubric

Hudson DATA JAM competition

Screening questions: Does the project include…

1) **A written scientific report?**   □ **Yes** □ **No**
2) **A creative component?**   □ **Yes** □ **No**

If you answered "no" to either of these questions, please inform the contest administrators and do not continue scoring the project.

Written Report: 40 points	Excels	Proficient	Below Standard	Well Below Standard	No Evidence

1. Title/Organization
a. The report includes:
  i. Title
  ii. Names of student author(s)
  iii. Grade(s)
  iv. School name.
b. Report is typed in a readable font, well organized, and free of spelling and grammatical errors.
	-	1	0.5	0	0

2. Introduction (1 paragraph) a. Includes background information needed by someone unfamiliar with the science topic to understand the project. b. Scientific question and claim about the dataset are clearly stated.	4	3	2	1	0

3. Dataset(s) Description (1 paragraph)
a. Dataset(s) are described accurately
b. The written description is clear and includes:
  i. Who collected the data, if applicable (ex: Dave Strayer)
  ii. How they collected the data (methods)
  iii. Where they collected the data
  iv. When they collected the data
  v. Why they collected the data
  vi. Source of data (ex: HRECOS, Cary Institute)
c. Variables are clearly identified accurately and explained
	4	3	2	1	0

4. Data Representation(s) (at least one graph, table, etc.)
a. Graph(s), table(s), or other type of summary includes:
  i. Clearly displayed data
  ii. Title
  iii. Labeled axes with units
	8	6	4	2	0

5. Data Trends or Comparisons (1-2 paragraphs)
a. Trend(s) or comparison(s) are described accurately, using basic descriptive statistics (ex: average, range, standard deviation).
  i. *Ex: The average annual blue crab population increased over time from 158 to 2,703 crabs/m².*
b. Variability in data is described.
  i. *Ex: Despite the overall increase in pearly mussel population from 1995-2010, the mussel population sharply dropped in 2003.*
	8	6	4	2	0

	Excels	Proficient	Below Standard	Well Below Standard	No Evidence

6. Data Interpretation (Explanation) (1-3 paragraphs)
   a. Gives a reasonable explanation of *why* their trend happened.
   b. Students support their explanation with evidence.
   c. The explanation is consistent with current scientific ideas.
	8	6	4	2	0

7. New Hypotheses & Questions (1 paragraph)
   a. Students pitch and describe at least two (2) new/future scientific research ideas.
   b. The new ideas are based off of the trend seen in the "Data Interpretations (Explanation)" section.
	4	3	2	1	0

8. Reference List
   a. Project clearly cites:
      i. The dataset
      ii. Two (2) scientifically sound, external sources
	1	0.5	0	0	

9. Explanation of Creative Project (2-5 sentences)
   a. The goal/purpose of the project is identified.
      i. Ex: The goal of the project is to inform people about the positive correlation between forest fragmentation and loss of biodiversity by having audience members watch a video.
   b. The audience of the project is identified.
      i. Ex: The game is geared for fifth and sixth graders who have already studied ecology in their science class.
   c. Any assumptions about the audience is clearly stated.
   a. *Ex: It is assumed that the adults engaging with the game have an understanding of the vocabulary words deciduous forest, producers, primary consumers, and secondary consumers.*
	1	0	0	0	

10. Reflection (2-5 sentences)
   a. Student reflects on their personal Data Jam experience.
   b. *Optional* starter questions:
      i. Did you enjoy a particular part of the process?
      ii. What challenge(s) did you encounter?
      iii. What helped you move beyond roadblocks?
      iv. What advice would you give future Data Jammers?
	1	0	0	0	

NOTE: In the case of a tie, judges will look to see if the authors used multiple datasets or data sources within their project.

Multiple Datasets (tie breaker)			
Did the authors use more than one dataset?	Yes	No	Not sure

Creative Component: 32 points

	Excels	Proficient	Below Standard	Well Below Standard	No Evidence
1. Creativity a. The project is interesting, new, or inspired, and makes an original contribution to the field of environmental art and/or communication.	8	6	4	2	0
2. Project Quality a. Materials, media, and/or resources are skillfully and effectively used to create an appealing project.	8	6	4	2	0

3. Data Incorporation
    a. The trend(s) in the data are accurately and clearly portrayed.
    b. After experiencing the project, the audience will understand the trend(s) in the data.
	8	6	4	2	0

4. Effectiveness
    a. The project meets its stated goal.
    b. The project was appropriately pitched for the stated audience.
    c. The design of the project clearly and naturally relates to the data/dataset.
       i. Ex: If the dataset is about birds of prey, a project may be a hanging mobile with bird cutouts. (Anti-example: If the dataset is about birds of prey, a poorly designed project might be cupcakes with various amounts of sprinkles to represent population of hawks.)
	8	6	4	2	0

Judge's Comments:

In addition to our overall winners, we give out many Honorable Mentions and special awards for projects that impressed our judges in a specific way. Would you like to nominate this project for an honorable mention or special award? If so, please briefly let us know why. Thank you!