# Junior Data Jam Competition – Judging Rubric

**Screening questions: Does the project include…**

1) A written interpretation of the graph? □ 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 Interpretation: 23 points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Written Interpretation: 23 points</th>
<th>Excels</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Below Standard</th>
<th>Well Below Standard</th>
<th>No Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### 1. Title/Organization

a. The report includes:
   i. Title
   ii. Names of participant author(s)
   iii. Grade(s)

b. Interpretation paragraph is typed in a readable font, well organized, and free of spelling and grammatical errors.

### 2. 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

b. Labeled axes with units

### 3. Data Trends or Comparisons (2-3 sentences)

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.*

### 4. Data Interpretation (Explanation) (1-3 sentences)

a. Gives a reasonable explanation of why their trend happened.

b. Explanation is supported with evidence from the graph.

c. The explanation is consistent with current scientific ideas.

### 5. Reference List

a. Project clearly cites the source of the dataset (i.e., HRECOS)

### 6. 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.*

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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!