

# Project Entry Guide

The Youth Science Canada Online STEM Fair enables grade 7-12 students across Canada to share their science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) projects with each other and the public. This guide will help you to use the project entry template and to ensure that you've included the required information.

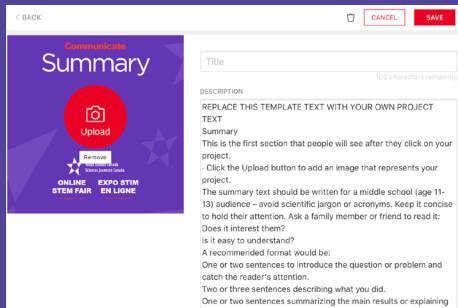
The template is divided into eight sections: Summary, Video, Why?, How?, What?, So What?, What's Next? and References. The text area for each section includes instructions and suggestions for the information you should enter.

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN...

- Prepare your text and images in advance; check the word count limits
- Ensure titles, axes, labels, etc. on images, graphs and figures are legible on screen; use larger text and ensure contrast between the text and background
- Prepare images in the following sizes:
  - Summary image: 640x640 px
  - Other section images: 1440x900 px (cropped to 700x690 px in grid view)
- Prepare captions for all figures and images
- Upload your 1-minute video to YouTube; set the privacy to "Unlisted"

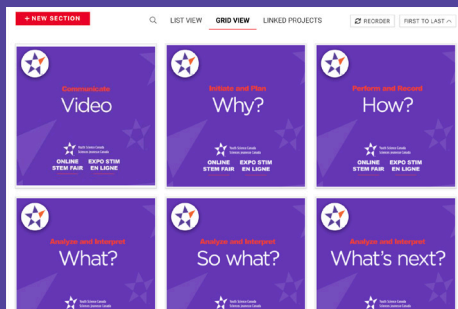
## Create your project

- Go to <https://makeprojects.com/ysc>
- Click the "ENTER NOW" button
- Click to select the English or French template and then click "NEXT"
- Select a project type – Discovery or Innovation
- Complete the Safety and Ethics section - check any that apply to your project
- Check the declaration that the project is your own work and then click "NEXT"
- Select the YSC Challenge that best describes your project – hover over the **i** to display a description. If you're not sure, select "Curiosity & Ingenuity."



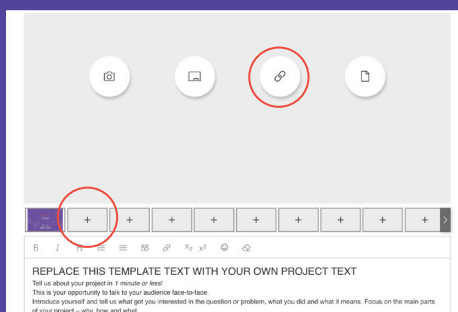
## Summary

- Click "+ TEAM" below the "DESCRIPTION" text box to add a project partner
- Enter your project title (100 characters max.)
- Click the red "Upload" button to add your main project image (640 x 640 px)
- Replace the text with your project summary (250 words max.)
- Click the red "SAVE" button at the top right
- After saving, you can log out and return to the project at any time.



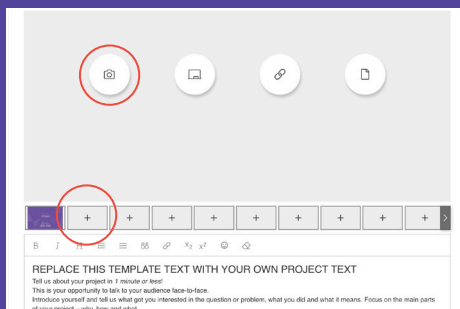
## Grid View

- The grid view displays the seven project sections – Video, Why?, How?, What?, So What?, What's Next? and References.
- To guide judges and visitors, each section must begin with a title slide. You can change the image, but you must maintain the titles and structure.
- Each section has a specific word limit (see descriptions in the template).



## Video

- Click the Video panel in the template and then click the edit (pencil) button at the bottom right of the text area.
- Click the first + to the right of the title slide to add a new image.
- Click the link button in the image space and then paste the link (URL) to your YouTube video.
- Add a brief description of your video (100 words max.) to the text area.
- Click the red SAVE button at the bottom right.



## All other sections

- Click the section panel in the template and then click the edit (pencil) button at the bottom right of the text area.
- Replace the text with your project text.
- Add up to 5 images by clicking the + buttons to the right of the title slide and then clicking the photo (camera) button in the image area.
- Add captions to figures and images by clicking the Edit button on the image and then the text button at the bottom. Click “Done” at the upper right.
- Click the red SAVE button at the bottom right.

## Template instructions

Each section includes its own instructions to help you prepare the content.

### SUMMARY **Communicate**

This is the first section that people will see after they click on your project.

- Click the Upload button to add an image that represents your project.

The summary text should be written for a middle school (age 11-13) audience – avoid scientific jargon or acronyms. Keep it concise to hold their attention. Ask a family member or friend to read it:

- Does it interest them?
- Is it easy to understand?

A recommended format would be:

- One or two sentences to introduce the question or problem and catch the reader’s attention.
- Two or three sentences describing what you did.
- One or two sentences summarizing the main results or explaining your solution.
- Two or three sentences explaining what the main results or testing of your solution reveal and how they compare with what others have done.
- One or two sentences to describe the importance of your findings or innovation.

**MAXIMUM 250 WORDS AND 1 IMAGE**

### VIDEO **Communicate**

*Tell us about your project in 1 minute or less!*

- This is your opportunity to talk to your audience face-to-face.
- Introduce yourself and tell us what got you interested in the question or problem, what you did and what it means. Focus on the main parts of your project – why, how and what.
- Remember, one minute is a very short time! Prepare a simple script and time yourself before recording. Speak clearly and slowly. Show off your equipment or prototype, or use a model.
- Upload your video to YouTube. We encourage you to set the privacy to “Unlisted.” If you set it to “Private”, people won’t be able to watch your video.
- Use the link button in the image area to add the link to your video.

### WHY? **Initiate and Plan**

*Tell us your story!*

You can use project sections, such as purpose, hypothesis and background information or a more narrative approach.

Some ideas you could include:

- Why did you do this project?
- What or who inspired you to do this project?
- What question were you trying to answer or what problem were you trying to solve?
- Who could benefit from your project?
- How can it make the world a better place?

**MAXIMUM 250 WORDS AND 5 IMAGES**

### HOW? **Perform and Record**

*How did you perform your experiment or develop your solution?*

You can use project sections, such as materials, methods, procedures, design process and testing procedure or a more narrative approach.

Figures, photos, or prototype sketches can be used to show what you did.

Some ideas you could include:

- How did you do your background research?
- How did you identify relevant and trustworthy sources of information?
- What was your experiment or design process?
- How did you design and test your solution or prototype?
- What materials did you use?
- How did you collect your data?
- How many samples did you test?
- How did you control the variables?

**MAXIMUM 500 WORDS AND 5 IMAGES**

### WHAT? **Analyse and Interpret**

*Tell us your results! What did you find out?*

You can use project sections, such as results, tables and graphs or a more narrative approach.

Some ideas you could include:

- What are the main results or findings of your project?
- How does your prototype work?
- Discuss your results.
- If you used statistics, explain why you chose the methods you used.

Show your results in graphical form – only include graphs or figures that summarize your

data and support your conclusion.

It’s not necessary to show all the data you collected. Please, don’t include every graph or table!

**MAXIMUM 500 WORDS AND 5 IMAGES**

### SO WHAT? **Analyse and Interpret**

*Tell us why your results are important and what they mean.*

You can use project sections, such as discussion and conclusion or a more narrative approach.

Some ideas you could include:

- What are the conclusions you can draw from your results?
- What did you learn from your results?

**MAXIMUM 250 WORDS AND 5 IMAGES**

### WHAT’S NEXT? **Analyse and Interpret**

*Tell us how you could extend your project.*

You can use project sections, such as further research and future improvements or a more narrative approach.

Some ideas you could include:

- What could you have done differently?
- How could you improve your project?
- What are the next steps?

**MAXIMUM 100 WORDS AND 5 IMAGES**

### REFERENCES

*Tell us where you got your information and ideas!*

All ideas, thoughts, data or statements that are not uniquely your own should be referenced. We encourage the use of APA formatting for all your references. Here are a few examples:

#### **Journal articles:**

Denisov, I. G., & Sligar, S. G. (2017). Nanodiscs in membrane biochemistry and biophysics. *Chemical Reviews*, 117(6), 4669-4713.

#### **Books:**

Eby, G. N. (2016). *Principles of environmental geochemistry*. Waveland Press.



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