



VOLVO ADVENTURE - FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

VOLVO ADVENTURE - YOUNG PEOPLE BRINGING THE ENVIRONMENT TO LIFE

Introduction

In response to the all important question: *What are the judges looking for?* we are going to open the door and let you see in.

This month's newsletter gives hints and tips for evaluating and collecting information that will help you prepare your entry for the Volvo Adventure. So here it is – the summary sheet that judges use to record their impressions of your entry.

What are the Judges Looking for?

The Project Summary Sheet

Judges use this sheet to identify mark and record comments about your submitted project:

Project details:	
Country:	
Team:	
Project name:	
Project Summary:	
Judge's score for each element (max 10 points per element):	
Understanding of the problem:	
Actions:	
Results:	
Involvement of young people:	
Total: (max 40 points)	
Judge's comments:	

The Judge's Criteria

Understanding the problem: - Tell the judges what the issue is you are working to solve. Tell them what impact you expect to have and try to get evidence showing them the extent of the problem. Some people describe the issue, others do surveys, and some people go to newspapers or experts.

Planning of practical environmental action: - Are the proposed actions practicable and achievable by the students within their time plan? A lot of projects may not be practical. It is important to tell the judges what you have achieved.

Communication: - Have the project plans been presented in an effective manner? Is the communication plan achievable?

Involvement of young people: - Have the young people devised the plan and will they also implement it? What evidence is there that adults advised but you made the project. Define them
Please do note this: The judges like to see sustained effort and development of projects. So if you missed the final last year please try again this year with your new and improved version.

Hints from the Judges

Often projects do not make it to the finalist's lists because:

- The outcomes cannot be achieved or are too ambitious – such as building large wind farms.
- There is no evidence of what a project has achieved to solve the problem or issue it is working on.

Tips from the Judges

1. Choose outcomes that are clearly stated and precise, and that they describe the changes.
2. Make sure there is a link between the objectives and the outcomes. If they had to change because of your experience, then tell us – it is possible that when you work in a community that you have to change your objectives to be more realistic.
3. Remember to collect evidence as you go – the projects that have the evidence for before and after doing the project.
4. Make sure you have a project plan that has times for you to get evidence. Work out when you have completed a stage and what evidence you might collect to either change the plan to make it effective or to prove you have had impact.

The Judging Rules

The standard of competition is high and you should be aware of the rules of the competition concerning the judging. These rules apply to all entries to the award:

1. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
2. Any evidence of falsely representing your work will lead to disqualification.
3. Only work undertaken, organised and designed by young people will be accepted.
4. Your team must consist of between two and five people aged between 10-16 years old, who can represent a larger group of similarly aged people.
5. Adults can be involved with the group, as facilitators.
6. Incomplete projects will be discarded.
7. Projects not fitting the format requested on the entry form will be disregarded.

So to help you with the next part of your project, here is a flavour of how your projects are evaluated, and then some tips on getting the evidence for each factor. You will find it useful to download the guidelines for entering – it has all the sections and word counts. The next sections give tips on evidence to support your project.

Getting Started

Remember that you should plan to get evidence from the moment you design your project. Start by defining the situation before you started. Use some of the ideas in our activity downloads in the teacher and youth leader resources pages. Can you say what the strengths are for your project? Can you identify problems you encountered and what solved them? Are there any weaknesses? Try doing a simple SWOT analysis at your project meetings:

Strengths – what is going well?

Weaknesses – What is not going well?

Opportunities – what could improve your project?

Threats – what is creating barriers (how did you overcome them?)

Helpful Hints about Monitoring your Programme

When you are planning to get information to track progress, remember to:

1. Keep it simple – think about collecting evidence for one or two things.
2. Make sure that the information you are collecting tells you if your objectives are being achieved. There's no point in measuring something that isn't relevant.
3. Discuss the results and your conclusions with your group – but do not panic. Consider if you need to give more time to allow something to work.
4. Be open and honest, discuss your findings with people in your community or school – they might have ideas that you can use to make your project more effective.

The End Point

At the end of the project, look at your objectives and the actual outcomes. This means you need to have very clear objectives that are simple and achievable. Remember the judges are looking for evidence that you have had an impact, caused a change or improved things. If the project cannot be done or is impractical, it will be hard to get this evidence.

Think about the outcomes – who helped you? What other organisations or projects contributed? How did you engage people and how did they react? Tell us how you motivated and got people involved.

The Submission Checklist

To help in preparing your entry here is a list of points:

1. Try downloading the entry form as a Word document and use this to prepare your entry – it can save time.
2. Make sure you have not exceeded the word counts requested on the entry form – the online entry form will not allow more words to be included.
3. Ensure that you have presented some research indicating the need for your project.
4. Show the outcomes and benefits of your project - these could be predicted from your initial results.
5. Keep the action plan simple and easy to understand, do not try to make it solve every problem, this makes it difficult to follow.
6. Make sure your photographs and other support images are clear and easy to see on the web site.

Good luck! ☺

The Bob the Bunny Bit

We wondered if some of your cartoons could show us a little movement and then realised we could have some fun by making Bob the Bunny flip books. This means drawing pictures with small movements joined together in a book. When you flip the pages it seems as though there is movement.

All you need is paper, pen and a stapler... An easy way to make a flip book is to use a pad made from very thin paper.

1. Start by planning a picture sequence – such as Bob planting a tree.
2. Think about how the motion will start, and how it will end. The action may need just a few pages or many pages.
3. One way to plan is to draw the first and last pictures before you start, then Map out the movement – perhaps starting with 10 drawings and then adding more.
4. Start at the back, then place the next piece of paper over it and trace the picture making a small adjustment for wherever you want to move. Remember, fewer drawings will make movement a lot faster.
5. Colour in your pictures
6. Flip and see

Can you use this principle to give an illusion of movement on your drawing for Bob?

A Word from our Friends

Young Agenda is hosting the international children's conference "What is Energy?" at the University of Stavanger, Norway 2 - 5 June 2010. 250 children from around 20 countries are expected to take part.

The application deadline is 1 March.

Participants need to be between the ages of 10 and 14 years old, and involved in an environmental project. Children from developing and poor countries can apply for travel aid. Please visit our website at www.youngagenda.com to download the application form (Under "conference" and "participants") and contact post@youngagenda.com if you have any questions.

Looking forward to welcoming a number of young environmentalists to Norway this summer!
Best regards,

Charlotte Susanne Sørås
Manager - Young Agenda