



**Invention Convention EVALUATOR GUIDELINES (all regional markets)**

**GENERAL GUIDELINES:**

Our mission is stated best in the naming of this organization .....JUST THINK. Inc.

“The Invention Convention inspires curiosity, confidence, invention & creative problem solving in our youth – Grades K-8 – encouraging young people to .....JUST THINK.”

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

*‘Be kind but fair’:* Each entry is a great accomplishment for these young inventors. As adults and parents, we have a natural tendency to offer more encouragement than criticism – which is as it should be. We are all committed to honoring the excitement and creativity of every participant. In your role as evaluator, however, it is critical to give as honest an assessment as possible. Your evaluations are confidential, and will be most effective and beneficial for everyone if they are ‘kind but fair.’

*‘Not down the middle’.* The evaluation system is on a 10 pt scale. Your role is to find the inventions that stand out at either end of that scale. Though it is natural to score down the middle, if you feel strongly about an idea follow your instincts and score accordingly. Scoring ‘down the middle ’is gentle – but will bring us back to square one.

*‘These are children – and are all winners.’* In building this competition, we need to remember that EVERY CHILD IS A WINNER – because they have all DONE SOMETHING. Each child has taken a project from idea – to prototype –and has stuck with it through its completion. Not every adult can say that honestly – so this is a real accomplishment. Treat each entrant with the respect they deserve – and remember – they are not rocket scientists... ***YET***. The experiences they have – both good and bad – when they are young will greatly affect their belief in themselves in future. As you begin each evaluation – take a moment to breathe and view each entry as you would.....

***‘if this was your child’.***

**WHAT THEY ARE COMPETING FOR:**

Grand Prize:	\$2,500 College Scholarship	(1 – overall best in show)
1 <sup>st</sup> place:	\$ 500 College Scholarship	(6/ one per grade category)
Superiors:	\$ 50 Savings Bond	(50 compiled top scoring entries)
Top of Category:	\$ Purple Ribbon	(top scores in each of 4 rubrics)
Special Category Prizes.	New Each Year.	

**SPECIFIC GUIDELINES:** Evaluation of competition entries is managed in multiple phases.

- Phase #1 is an elimination round to weed -out entries that:
  - Did not complete registration form completely;
  - Did not have journal/prototype/model;
  - Were inventions that already exist/were similar to products already on the market.
  
- Phase #2 is where YOUR expertise is most important – that is where we are now.

**Invention Convention Evaluator Guidelines (pg2)**

**CRITERIA/RUBRIC:** Entries are evaluated using the following criteria:

- Communication/Expression: 25%
- The Process: From Intention to Invention: 25%
- Results – Intention:
  - Understanding & Meeting the need: 25%
- Results - Invention:
  - Does it Work? 25%

**SAMPLE QUESTIONS:** Sample questions in each category are:

***Communication/Expression:***

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Verbal: | Were Oral Interview & Journal clear and effective?     |
| Visual: | Did Prototype & Display show/demonstrate function/use? |

***The Process: :***

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Research:          | Were need, relevance & potential use explored fully?     |
| Options/Ideas:     | Were many concepts brainstormed/tested?                  |
| Options/Solutions: | Were multiple improvements made along product evolution? |

***Results – Intention: (Understanding & meeting the need)***

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Impact/Audience: | Were use, user and impact on both fully understood/defined? |
| Impact/Effect:   | Is how the need is met clearly detailed/expressed?          |

***Results – Invention: (Does It Work?)***

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Execution/Function: | Does it meet the need/solve the problem?              |
| Execution/Style:    | Is design useful, relevant, user friendly?            |
| Originality:        | Is invention measurably different/unique from others? |

**Confidentiality**

Highlighting informational resources to assist our student's in protecting their intellectual property is a goal of the Invention Convention. We ask evaluators to join us in that goal.

JUST THINK, Inc. and the Invention Convention do not profit in any way from any invention submitted by participants. JUST THINK, Inc., its affiliates, sponsors, board or officers have no rights privileges or interest in any invention idea submitted as part of the Invention Convention. Participants are cautioned that the event, and specifically the awards ceremony, is open to public. As a result – all inventions will be deemed 'publicly disclosed' at the convention, which makes it necessary for participant inventors to take steps to secure certain intellectual property rights in their inventions. Please be aware of, respect and uphold each entrants' intellectual property.