Virtual Science Symposium (VSS) Project Review Form: Feedback Guide and Examples

Use this guide when completing each section of the Project Review Form. Feedback should be **specific, respectful, and actionable**.

Research Question

Look for: clarity, focus, and testability
Good feedback includes:

- Strengths of the question
- Whether it's appropriately scoped
- How clearly it connects to science or real-world issues
  ✓ **Tip:** Suggest narrowing or clarifying rather than rewriting the question.

Feedback examples:

- "Your research question is clearly stated and sets a strong direction for the project."
- "You might consider narrowing your question slightly to make it easier to test."
- "This question connects well to a real-world scientific issue."
- "Clarifying the variables in your question would strengthen its focus."

Research Methods

Look for: alignment with the research question, clarity, use of GLOBE protocols
Good feedback includes:

- Strengths of the research design or approach
- Notes on controls, variables, or procedures
- Suggestions to improve reliability or clarity
  ✓ **Tip:** Ask how variables were controlled or measured.

Feedback examples:

- "Your research methods are well matched to your research question."
- "Explaining how you controlled key variables would strengthen your design."
- "This is a creative approach to collecting data."
- "You might improve reliability by increasing the number of trials or observations."

Results (or Expected Results)

Look for: clear data presentation and interpretation
Good feedback includes:

- Praise for clear graphs/tables
- Suggestions for labeling, units, or organization
- Encouragement to explain trends or patterns
  ✓ **Tip:** Focus on clarity, not whether results "worked."

Feedback examples:

- "Your data are clearly presented and easy to follow."
- "Adding units to your graph axes would improve clarity."
- "You do a nice job highlighting trends in your results."
- "If these are expected results, consider explaining why you anticipate these outcomes."

Discussion / Conclusion

Look for: logical reasoning supported by evidence
Good feedback includes:

- How well conclusions connect to data
- Recognition of limitations or uncertainty
- Ideas for next steps or future research
  ✓ **Tip:** Encourage reflection, not certainty.

Feedback examples:

- "Your conclusions logically follow from your data."
- "Acknowledging possible sources of error would strengthen your discussion."
- "This section shows thoughtful interpretation of results."
- "A next step could be exploring how this research applies beyond your current study."

Presentation

Look for: organization, readability, and communication
Good feedback includes:

- Visual clarity and logical flow
- Suggestions to improve labels, layout, or emphasis
- Comments on how well the project tells its story
  ✓ **Tip:** Think "Can a reader follow this from start to finish?"

Feedback examples:

- “Your project is well organized and easy to navigate.”
- “The visuals support understanding of your work.”
- “You might simplify some text or visuals to highlight the main points.”
- “The presentation tells a clear story from question to conclusion.”

Badges

Look for: areas of excellence
Good feedback includes:

- Clear justification for awarding a badge
- Reference to specific evidence in the project
  ✓ **Tip:** Badges should celebrate strengths, not compensate for weaknesses.

Feedback examples:

- “Awarded *I am a Data Scientist* badge for a creative and thorough approach to data analysis.”
- “Awarded *I Work With Satellite Data* badge for novel comparison to NASA satellite data sources.”
- “Awarded *I Make an Impact* badge for addressing a meaningful real-world issue.”
