

Single-Page Outline of the Judging Process

Note: Please see the Guide to Judging for a full description of the Judging Process and all award descriptions and criteria.

The judging process at events consists of two main parts: The first is Engineering Notebook Judging, in which judges will evaluate the engineering notebooks of teams using the Engineering Notebook Rubric. Notebooks are first sorted on a pass/fail basis to determine if they are "Fully Developed," means they which include detailed drawings, tests and test results, solutions to problems the team encountered, and will be a complete record of the Design Process, as shown below:



Some events may have dedicated judges for this task, others will share that role with interview judges, which is the second main component of the Judging Process.

For interviews, judges will be arranged into groups of 2 or more by the Judge Advisor, and will be assigned to interview a set of teams (of which they do not have a connection that would be considered a conflict of interest). Judges will ask teams open ended questions about their Design Process and robot and evaluate interviews using the Team Interview Rubric. There is also a notetaking page that may be helpful for judges to organize their observations. In addition to their robot and Design Process, judges should also be on the lookout for teams' behavior – both positive and negative. Teams are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, courtesy, and respect for other teams as well as volunteers/event staff.

After all teams have been interviewed, each judge group will identify candidates from the teams they've interviewed for the awards that are being offered at the event. Those teams will then be cross interviewed by different judges to refine the group of candidates to a ranked list of the top candidates through a deliberation discussion that is facilitated by the Judge Advisor. Final award winners will be recognized at the conclusion of the event with an awards ceremony. Some awards may qualify teams to progress to another level of competition, whether it be a state or region championship or the World Championship.