



A program of: **psbr** Pennsylvania Society for
Biomedical Research

2026 Judging Rubric

Middle School (6th, 7th, 8th Grade) Essay Contest

“What is Biomedical Research?”

Writing Prompt: *Select a disease, treatment, cure, medical device or medical advancement and explain how biomedical research, including the use of animal models, relates to or plays a role in your topic.*

Note: The writer must display general knowledge of the chosen topic and how it relates to the prompts below.

The Biomedical Research Process

20 points _____

- ☐ What is the current state of the disease, treatment, or advancement?
- ☐ How does basic, applied, and clinical research play a role in the process?
- ☐ How has biomedical science contributed previously?

Animal Models

20 points _____

- ☐ How and why were animal models used?
- ☐ How is animal welfare promoted during the research process?
- ☐ How have animal models contributed to or helped advance your chosen topic?

Alternative Methods/3Rs

20 points _____

- ☐ How are Alternative Methods used to compliment animal models?
Examples include:
 - ☐ Simulations/computer models
 - ☐ In vitro tests
 - ☐ Human clinical trials
 - ☐ Epidemiological studies

Current and Future Needs

20 points _____

- ☐ What needs still exist?
- ☐ How will biomedical research help?
- ☐ What do you see as the status of the disease, treatment, or advancement in 20 years – will it be cured, easily treated, a common medical procedure, etc.?

Format, Factual Content & Bibliography

20 points _____

- ☐ Correct grammar/spelling.
- ☐ Consistent paragraph construction.
- ☐ Ideas/facts are organized and logical progression of thought is present.
- ☐ Information given is true.
- ☐ At least 3 references are included.

TOTAL POINTS _____ /100