

2026 Judging Rubric
New Jersey High School Essay Contest
“Biomedical Research and My Life”

Please choose one past, current, or ongoing medical advancement that has impacted your life. Research the history behind that advancement, including the role of animal research in that advancement.

Content- Focuses on **one** appropriate topic & uses supporting examples **20 points** _____

- ☐ Addresses the topic of “Biomedical Research and My Life” (This may include a past, current, or future example of the impact of biomedical research on student, family members, friends, pets, or animals).
- ☐ The role of animal research is described.
 - ☐ As it relates to the chosen topic.
 - ☐ As it relates to research in general.
- ☐ Essay contains one central idea.
- ☐ Uses supporting research examples that support the central idea.
- ☐ Related to health/medicine.

Persuasiveness & Originality **20 points** _____

- ☐ Material is presented in an informative and engaging manner.
- ☐ Essay has an original perspective, voice, and point-of-view.

Understanding- Research methods are understood and addressed **20 points** _____

- ☐ Sense of complexities is made clear.
- ☐ Shows full understanding of the topic.
- ☐ Shows full understanding of the entire biomedical research process.
- ☐ Shows full understanding of the use of animals in research.

Factual Content **20 points** _____

- ☐ Information given is true.
- ☐ Facts are backed with references.

Format & Bibliography **20 points** _____

- ☐ Correct grammar/spelling.
- ☐ Consistent paragraph construction.
- ☐ Ideas/facts are organized and logical progression of thought is present.
- ☐ Essay is typed and does not exceed 750 words.
- ☐ At least 3 references are included.

TOTAL POINTS _____ **/100**