



YEOTY: A judge's perspective
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What is a good topic?

- A good topic is one you are interested in, that is feasible and that you can interest other people in
 - So convince the judges in your intro' that its important
- Common areas include the environment /climate change, finance, social media, inequality/poverty/homelessness, transport, health behaviours, gaming, sport, fast fashion, economic history, Covid19...
- A project is best centred around a question e.g. “Does X affect Y?” or “Why has Z increased?”



What do judges look for?

- Imagination & originality:
 - Choice of topics
 - Methods: video, music, rap..
- Data collection & analysis e.g. experiments, surveys
- Use of appropriate terminology, graphs
- Attention to detail e.g. sources, references
- Its helpful to think of the project as being a narrative , telling a story



An easy example

“Climate change is the defining challenge that we face today”

“Addressing this will require reducing carbon emissions”

“A switch to electric vehicles is considered essential for this”

“Irish drivers have been slow to adapt”

“The government’s policy following COP26 announced in November...”

“In my project , I will...”



What not to do

- Students interests are often driven by their passions
 - Ok but the heart shouldn't rule over the head
 - Its important not to be partisan
- Don't assume the judges know everything about a particular topic e.g. cryptocurrencies
- Don't attempt to do too much: better to cover a narrow topic in detail
 - So don't do a project on "The economics of smoking"
 - Do one on "Has taxation policy reduced smoking in Ireland?"

Obviously it depends on what level they are at

