

## Exempt Studies

(Do Not Require IRB Preapproval or Human Participants Paperwork)

Some studies involving humans are exempt from IRB pre-approval or additional human participant forms. Exempt projects for the Intel ISEF and affiliated fairs are:

- Testing of a student-designed invention, program, concept, etc. is done only by the student researcher and where the testing does not pose a health or safety hazard. It is recommended that a Risk Assessment Form (3) be completed. (The use of other human participants for this testing is not exempt from IRB review and approval.)
- Data/record review studies (e.g., baseball statistics, crime statistics) in which the data are taken from preexisting data sets that are publicly available and/or published and do not involve any interaction with humans or the collection of any data from a human participant for the purpose of the student's research project. Behavioral observations of unrestricted, public settings (e.g., shopping mall, public park) in which all of the following apply:
  - a. the researcher has no interaction with the individuals being observed;
  - b. the researcher does not manipulate the environment in any way, and
  - c. the researcher does not record any personally identifiable data.
- Projects in which the student receives the data in a de-identified/anonymous format which complies with both of the following conditions:
  - a. the professional providing the data certifies in writing that the data have been appropriately de-identified and are in compliance with all privacy and HIPAA laws, and
  - b. the affiliated fair SRC ensures that the data were appropriately de-identified by review of the written documentation provided by the supervising adult(s).