



## ***Science Fair***

### **Film Study Guide**

**Director: Darren Foster, Cristina Costantini**

**2018 | Documentary | 90 Minutes | US | English | Rated PG**

<https://films.nationalgeographic.com/science-fair/>

**Synopsis:** Hailed by critics as “infectious and exuberant” and “the funniest movie of the year,” National Geographic Documentary Films’ ***Science Fair*** follows nine high school students from around the globe as they navigate rivalries, setbacks and, of course, hormones, on their journey to compete at the International Science and Engineering Fair. As 1,700 of the smartest, quirkiest teens from 78 different countries face off, only one will be named Best in Fair. The film, directed by the documentary filmmaking team of Cristina Costantini and Darren Foster, offers a front-row seat to the victories, defeats and motivations of an incredible group of young men and women who are on a path to change their lives — and the world — through science. ***Science Fair*** won the audience award at the Sundance and SXSW film festivals.

#### **Post-Screening Discussion Questions**

1. Kashfia found herself poorly represented and often unappreciated by her classmates and school. How do you suggest a student could increase his or her school’s involvement in supporting science fair-related competitions? Have you ever felt discouraged from pursuing your interests? How did you motivate yourself to persevere?

2. Despite being very intelligent, Robbie didn't get into college after he graduated high school. But now, he's been featured on the cover of "Bloomberg Weekly," created a fashion line with his Balenciaga artificial intelligence-influenced designs and is showing his AI-created art in Paris, France. How can you use Robbie as an influencer and role model to develop your interests? How can you learn or develop your own unique interests outside school?
3. Anjali faced criticism for being "too competitive" or "too confident," but we saw that her intelligence and confidence helped her succeed and persist through challenges. She used her innate motivation to help herself and others. What steps can you take to feel confident in yourself while serving as an example to others?
4. Ivo turned his childhood love of planes and flight into an award-winning science fair project. What passion or interest could you turn into a project? What resources could you use to develop that project?
5. One pair that traveled hundreds of miles to compete at ISEF was Myllena and Gabriel. Does their determination to succeed despite limited resources inspire you? If so, how?
6. Why does Dr. McCalla emphasize the importance of a cogent and confident verbal presentation? Why is how you present your project or product important to obtaining success when sharing an idea or invention with others?
7. Who do you think had the most interesting project? The most important? The most fun?
8. If you could solve one issue in your community through science, what would it be? Can you think of a project you could develop to address that issue?
9. Winning ISEF is the crowning achievement for young scientists. In your wildest dreams, what would be your biggest accomplishment?
10. Which scientific or STEM organizations can you get involved with in your community?
11. What type of science interests you the most and why? Some scientific disciplines include behavioral sciences, chemistry, robotics, geology, medicine and health, cellular and molecular biology, and environmental engineering.