

Effective Entry Guide

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SCORING

Judges are asked to evaluate specific criteria in scoring a case's overall effectiveness, and to provide separate scores analyzing specific attributes on the following:

Challenge, Context & Objectives	23.3%
Insights & Strategic Idea	23.3%
Bringing the Idea to Life	23.3%
Results	30%



The judges' scores determine which entries become finalists and which finalists are awarded a Gold, Silver or Bronze Effie. Each level - Gold, Silver, Bronze, finalist - has a minimum score required in order to be eligible for advancement. It is possible that a category may produce one, two, three or four winners of any level or perhaps no winners at all.



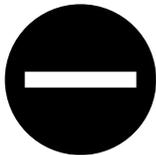
JUDGING PROCESS



Because judges evaluate 6-8 cases, clear, concise, and cohesive entries stand out. Be sure to tell a story, linking each section of the entry form to the next. As you write, think about how you can streamline your case into an easy read for the judges.



Judges will be looking at your case with a critical eye. Think through questions they may have and address them in your case.



Judges are matched with cases that do not prove to be conflicts of interest – judges cannot score cases from a brand they work on or a competitor of that brand. It is important to provide clear context for the brand's industry, as judges may not be aware of category nuances. Limit industry jargon & define any industry terms.

Two Phases of Judging

Round One	Final Round
<p>Regional judging sessions take place around the world featuring global marketers as judges.</p> <p>Each judge reviews 6-8 cases across a range of categories. During each judging event, judges review cases across a range of categories. Judges will have the opportunity to discuss each assigned case.</p>	<p>Finalists are reviewed against other finalists in the same category. Judges review 6-8 cases in a half-day group judging session.</p> <p>Judges discuss the merits of each finalist case.</p>
Both Rounds	
<p>The written case is reviewed before the creative work.</p> <p>Judges score each case individually.</p> <p>Judges provide written feedback for each case. Entrants can access this feedback via the Insight Guide.</p>	

TOP ENTRY TIPS

- 1 **"Start with the executive summary** before you try to write individual sections. Get your overall story really strong, crisp, clear, and inspiring."
- 2 "Be sure to provide **context**; most judges don't know your category or what success looks like."
- 3 "While all of the information is important, remember that this is read as one of many entries by judges. Go back and ensure that you are using the most impactful, focused information to help them make a decision."
- 4 "The entrants who build their cases from a place of **honesty, authenticity, and simplicity** vs. marketing jargon were really the strongest."
- 5 "Ensure that the 'insights' somehow tie to a human behavior. **A data point is not an insight**, it's what the data point means to your brand, target or audience that makes it an insight."
- 6 "Remember that communications strategies include both creative and media strategies - not just tactics."
- 7 **"Make sure your creative reel doesn't just reiterate what you said in your entry.** Use it to complement that information."
- 8 **"Connect results to objectives very clearly.** Don't try to fake it and write objectives to meet existing results. We can tell and will ding you for it."
- 9 "Advertising principles should apply to case studies too: write them in a way that **engages judges**, focus on how your campaign helped achieve your brand's objectives and don't over-complicate it. Less is more!"
- 10 "Check for grammar, typos, math, and inconsistencies."

TOP ENTRY TIPS

BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY...

- 👉 Ensure your entry speaks to the entered Effie category. Judges are scoring your case in the context of the Effie category definition. It should be clear to the judges why your work is award-worthy in your Effie entry category.
- 👉 Review Process
 - 👉 Ask a strong writer or editor to proofread your case for spelling, grammar, logic flow errors, mathematical miscalculations, etc.
 - 👉 Share the case with someone who doesn't work on the brand, or even in the industry. Ask them what was unclear or where the case fell in interest.
 - 👉 Have senior team members on both the client and agency side review the case to ensure it is well-rounded in context and personality. Collaborate with partner agencies.
 - 👉 Look for past Effie judges within your company & ask them to review your entry.
- 👉 Think about what the judges may be skeptical of & address it.
- 👉 Review formatting requirements & reasons for disqualification.
- 👉 Ensure all data throughout the entry includes a specific, verifiable source.

JUDGE ADVICE: "Be extremely self-critical about the verbiage, story and length of your entry. The judges have limited time and are being asked to evaluate a number of different categories and cases. You have to be succinct and draw the judge in, along with sharing the results you captured through the program."



ENTRY GUIDANCE

Effie entries, across all rounds of judging, are judged against the below framework for marketing effectiveness. Review the following pages for advice on each of Effie's four scoring sections.

Challenge, Context & Objectives

Questions 1A-1D

23.3%

Insights & Strategic Idea

Questions 2A-2C

23.3%

Bringing the Idea to Life

Question 3
Creative Work
Investment Overview

23.3%

The Results

Questions 4A-4B

30%

SCORING SECTION 1: CHALLENGE, CONTEXT & OBJECTIVES

Questions 1A-1D

This scoring section is the glue that shapes the other elements of the case. Elements are assessed for both suitability and ambitiousness within the framework of the strategic communications challenge.

Keep in mind that judges are looking for:

- 👉 Context that clearly frames the marketplace, culture, situation and category, especially what success looks like in that particular category.
- 👉 How the case was truly global in nature, and details on specific challenges for each different market.
- 👉 The challenges of the marketing goal(s) in relation to the category/industry.
- 👉 Who the target audience is (attitudes, behaviors, culture, etc.), and why. Explain any differences in the audience for each of the four key markets.
- 👉 Clear objectives & KPIs that relate to the business challenge and are not retrofitted to match the results of the case.
- 👉 Explanation of the significance of the objectives to the brand and the business.

Judges often say that if this section is weak, the entire entry weakens because the context is needed to understand how big the idea was and how profound the results were.



SCORING SECTION 1: CHALLENGE, CONTEXT & OBJECTIVES

Questions 1A-1D

JUDGE ADVICE

“The best cases clearly articulated the challenge for the brand, the category and competitive landscape, and what the overall goals were. They also had KPIs that aligned well to that challenge that were clearly not retro-fitted to the resulting outcome.”

“Make sure the objectives are clearly defined. If awareness is the goal, what lift were you looking for and from where to where? Leaving the goals broad makes it hard to give credit for the difficulty of the challenge.”

“Share the context completely so judges understand the situation fully. Ensure that the difficulty in achieving the goal is clear and mitigate the impact of activity outside of the campaign.”

“Be SPECIFIC and measurable with your objectives. Help the judges understand the context of that goal/objective.”

SCORING SECTION 2: INSIGHTS & STRATEGIC IDEA

Questions 2A-2C

Judges evaluate how inventive and effective the Idea and Strategy were in meeting the communications challenge.

Keep in mind that judges are looking for:

- 👉 Insights – *not just facts or observations, but what came out from the data points/research.* State your insights and explain how you came to them.
- 👉 An understanding of why these insights are unique to the brand and are positioned to address your challenge and business situation. Explain how it globally evolved across multiple markets and countries.
- 👉 An explanation on how the insight links with the strategy, informed the strategic idea, brought to life the creative execution and ultimately, the results.
- 👉 The strategic idea that drove the effort and led to a solution. *This is not your tagline – it is the core idea that drove your effort and led to your results.*

SCORING SECTION 2: INSIGHTS & STRATEGIC IDEA

Questions 2A-2C

JUDGE ADVICE

“Insights need to feel new and different, with a sense of tension and actionability. The idea needs to take the insight and activate it in an interesting, compelling and useful way. And, most importantly, in a way that helps achieve your stated objectives.”

“The idea needs to tie directly back to the insight and not be the tactical execution that was deployed. The idea needs to be crisp, but also tell the judge enough detail so that it is easy to understand how the team arrived at this idea and why it is meaningful to the brand and campaign.”

“Find a real insight, not an audience observation or category convention. It should be a deep human truth that not only drives emotions and behavior but enables the strategic idea and creative execution to be effective and successful.”

“A strong global case has an idea based on strong universal insight that transcends countries to deliver compelling communications impact.”

SCORING SECTION 3: BRINGING THE IDEA TO LIFE

Question 3 + Creative Work + Investment Overview

In this section, entrants should articulate the creative and media strategies (not just tactics) and how the idea was brought to life. Ensure your response details the 'why' behind your choices.

Keep in mind that judges are looking for:

- 👉 The direct connection between the creative/media strategies and the objectives and insights.
- 👉 The importance of each media/communication channel used for the case, and how each was used - why was your creative output and channel choices right for your specific audience and idea? Why did you choose these over others?
- 👉 A clear depiction of how the campaign was executed in the public marketplace. Was there a 'path' consumers were meant to go on, and what was it?
- 👉 A clear depiction of how the campaign was executed for specific audiences in each market. Did local challenges impact the way the idea was carried out? How was the big idea made culturally relevant to each environment?

Investment Overview:

- 👉 Entrants will provide details on owned/earned/paid media, sponsorships, media partners, and touchpoints in the Investment Overview.
- 👉 Use the Media Budget Elaboration field to provide additional context for judges.

SCORING SECTION 3: BRINGING THE IDEA TO LIFE

Question 3 + Creative Work + Investment Overview

The creative reel is your place to show examples of your work - not repeat the written case.

Judges are required to review the written case before watching the creative reel - use the creative reel to showcase your creative work & complement your response to Question 3.

No results may be included in the creative reel.

Keep in mind that judges are looking for:

- 👉 At least one complete example of each integral touchpoint.
- 👉 At least one example from each of the four key markets, labeled by country and year the work ran.
- 👉 The strategic idea in action - how it was brought to life.
- 👉 More creative work versus setup/retelling of the case.

JUDGE ADVICE: "The creative reel should showcase all of the work that I've just read about and want to see. I would rather clearly see the different executions over hearing setup."



SCORING SECTION 3: BRINGING THE IDEA TO LIFE

Question 3 + Creative Work + Investment Overview

JUDGE ADVICE

“Integrate the media strategy and show how it links to the full execution and influences the creative strategy and explain how it evolved with the campaign.”

“Give rationale for why these specific channels were selected. Why are they meaningful to the audience and the challenge? How and why did you place importance on some channels over others? ”

“Keep the storytelling and results out of the creative reel, and highlight the creative, especially the different executions. The more different types of creative shown, the better. I took the judging seriously and read through the written case carefully, so there was no need to duplicate the story - what I was missing was how everything was brought to life.”

“Be sure the written case and video complement each other and do not repeat each other. It isn't about the quality of the video itself but more about the content.”

SCORING SECTION 4: RESULTS

Question 4A-4B

Judges are looking for **direct correlations between the objectives and the results** of a case.

- 👉 Explain how the results impacted the brand and the brand's business globally.
- 👉 Make a compelling argument around why the marketing led to the results achieved.
- 👉 Provide context with historical data, industry benchmarks, competitors, etc.
- 👉 If you achieved additional results, explain what they were and why they are significant.
- 👉 Address other factors that could have contributed to your results, whether positively or negatively.
- 👉 When key metrics are withheld without explanation, judges may assume it is because the results were weak.

SCORING SECTION 4: RESULTS

Question 4A-4B

Judges take into account the environment in which each case exists. It is important to **include category/industry, market and year-over-year context**, as judges may not be knowledgeable of the nuances of your particular industry or the regions your case ran in. For example, a small percentage move in a highly segmented, high volume category may be more difficult to achieve than a large percentage change in another category. Explain your business situation to the judges.

Charts and graphs are useful tools to present your data clearly. If needed for confidential reasons, proof of performance may be indexed or provided as percentages. If you cannot provide certain business results, explain why you cannot or why they are less important. Think through creative & meaningful ways to present the significance of the results you cannot share. For example, the results achieved were the equivalent of opening up a new 200,000 square foot store in the region.



SCORING SECTION 4: RESULTS

Question 4A-4B

JUDGE ADVICE

“Make sure you provide context. If you show results, help the judges understand if the results are good and why. Explain what the numbers mean.”

“Don't fudge the results. Your peers will know. Honesty is more effective. We have all had wins and we have all had fails. Every campaign does not need to be perfect.”

“Tie together the story of how your work drove the results - the best cases did this seamlessly, the worst cases just threw the results out there as somehow a self-evident proof of the value of the work without explaining why or how.”

“Don't get caught lowballing or avoiding inconvenient other factors - judges are looking for it. Admit more and provide real-world context: give credit to things like economic trends in addition to your campaign. You'll gain credibility by being honest about all the factors that created success.”

**Wishing you success
in this year's competition!**

Entry Questions? Email global@effie.org

Disclaimer: The insights presented in this guide come directly from the jury. These statements do not represent the opinions of Effie Worldwide organization, board of directors, steering committee, or staff - all comments and data presented - except for the specified Effie advice - are straight from the industry executives who dedicated their time to serve on an Effie Jury.

