Frequently asked questions about the final project

1- What is used for weight? Can teams build the bucket or hanger to hold the weight?
   You may use Pennies and paper clips, attached by tape.

2- Can the light's positions be changed during the run?
   Yes.

3- Can the balloon be manipulated after liftoff?
   Minimally, you can use a slipknot.

4- Are groups allowed to hold the balloon to help it inflate?
   Yes.

5- Can groups use a fan to help it inflate if it is included in the materials cost?
   No, you don't need a fan; you can simply fill it up by moving it in the air or blowing on it.

6- How much time is allowed after liftoff before applying the load?
   You may load during inflation. You will have 5 minutes to apply the weight. You will be estimated based on the max weight, time to liftoff, and your accuracy in computations.

7- What is the mounting apparatus for the lights? Can the teams configure their setup/position for the lights, or is this set?
   The lights are attached to chemistry rings stands and the teams are allowed to position the lights as they saw fit.

8- Can they use free standing reflectors that are not attached to the balloon as long as they are included in material costs?
   Yes.

9- Can the students make some sort of funnel or cone thing that will direct the heat from the lamps directly into the balloon?
   I do not see why not, but it probably will not be very effective.
10- If they put some sort of basket on their balloon to carry the weight, does this count as the payload?

Yes.

11- Can they put solar cells on their balloon?

No, we want it to be a thermal project not an electrical project.

12- The students want to be able to test their balloons. Can they come to the heat transfer lab if they schedule a time with their TA to use the IR lamps and test their balloons? Can they move them to the IPL (industrial projects lab) so that they can get to them whenever they want?

Testing in the IPL is a good idea. Just ask your TA to be present for the test.