

RULES FOR THE WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA STUDENT PRESENTATION CONTEST

A. ELIGIBILITY:

1. Any student who is a WSSA member and has registered to attend the current WSSA annual meeting is eligible to compete in the poster or oral presentation contest.
2. Students are eligible for participation in the Student Poster Contest and Oral Presentation Contest (includes 3MT® presentations) multiple times during a M.S. program and a Ph.D. program; however, a student cannot participate in the oral presentation contest and poster presentation contest concurrently.
3. A student can only win 1st place in the poster or oral presentation contest once per degree program. Once a student places 1st in a given contest (i.e. oral or poster presentation contest), they are no longer eligible to compete in said contest during the course of their current degree program. A student may win 1st place in the poster presentation contest and 1st place in the oral presentation contest while in a M.S. or Ph.D. program; however, a student may not enter both contests at the same annual meeting. A student may win 1st in the poster or oral presentation contest in the M.S. degree program and then compete and win 1st place for an oral or poster presentation while in a Ph.D. degree program.

B. RULES AND PROCEDURES:

1. Notice of the contests will be included with the Call for Papers.
2. A contestant may enter the poster or oral presentation contest multiple years per degree program. Persons who have graduated from a degree program (M.S. or Ph.D.) and are not actively pursuing an additional degree may only enter the contest for that degree program during the first annual meeting following graduation.
3. Contestants will indicate in the title submission that they wish to enter either the poster or oral presentation contest. Title and contest declaration must be turned in by the deadline that title submissions are due. If a contestant does not turn in a title and contest declaration by the time that title submissions are due, they will be ineligible for the contest unless the Student Program Chairperson declares the student eligible based on student's situation.
ABSTRACTS FOR CONTEST PRESENTATIONS SHALL BE DELIVERED PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING (this allows time for the committee to prepare copies or e-mail abstracts to the appropriate judges prior to the contest). If a contest abstract is not received by this deadline, points will be deducted.
4. Evaluation forms and rules will be posted to the WSSA website.
5. Awards will be presented at the WSSA business meeting.

C. AWARDS:

Awards of \$300, \$200, and \$100 will be presented to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners, respectively, in each section of the Poster and Oral Presentation Contest. When there is a tie for 1st place, there will be no 2nd place winner. When there is a tie for 2nd place, no 3rd place award will be given.

D. CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONTEST:

Duties of the Student Contest Chairperson include the following:

1. Divide contestants into sections and into divisions of 6 to 11 posters or oral presentations according to the associated crop, weed or herbicide, M.S. or Ph.D. degree presentations,

and/or laboratory or field research studies. Dividing student presentations is at the discretion of the Student Contest Chairperson.

2. Select five judges for each section for each contest with the assistance of the Student Contest Vice-Chair. If at all possible, no judge shall be selected for a division in which one of his/her students participates or includes a paper/poster that the judge has co-authored. If there are not enough judges to have five judges per section, as many judges as possible should be assigned to each section.
3. Make presentation of awards at the business meeting.
4. Ensure photographs of winners are taken at the business meeting.
5. The Student Contest Chairperson will serve a term of two-years. The initial Student Contest Chairperson shall serve for a term of three-years to ensure continuity. After the term has expired, the Vice-Chair will assume responsibilities as Student Contest Chairperson and a new Vice-Chair will be elected.

E. JUDGING AND JUDGES:

1. Judges shall be provided with evaluation forms and instructions from the Chairperson of the Student Contest concerning methods for judging and evaluating the contestants.
2. The Chairperson should try to assign judges to sections of their interest and competence and in which the contestants are from different institutions or unrelated industries.
3. Judges shall at least one graduate degree.

F. WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA STUDENT POSTER CONTEST INSTRUCTIONS FOR JUDGES

Presentation of a scientific poster is intended to allow the poster to stand alone and provide the audience understanding of the author's work and results. Poster presentations will be judged in two major categories: Appearance and Content. A sample score sheet is attached. A separate score sheet will be used by each judge for each student. A numerical scale is provided for judges to use as a guide to evaluate the posters. Please use these to assist the students in evaluating their strengths and weaknesses in their research and presentation of said research.

Scores will be tallied and presentations will be ranked in ascending order by overall score. The winners of the contest will be determined by adding together judge's scores and ranking student presentations based on these scores. The student contestant with the highest average ranking (i.e. 1.5 compared to 2.3 with 1.5 being the winner) will be the winner. In an effort to prevent ties, individual judges should not allow any ties to occur within the division they judged; however, if after compilation of scores from all judges a tie occurs, then both contestants will receive the award for a given place and no secondary award will be given. For example, if two contestants tie for 1st place, two 1st place awards will be given as well as a 3rd place award. If two contestants tie for 2nd place, a 1st place and two 2nd place awards will be given and no 3rd place award will be given. If two contestants tie for 3rd place, a 1st and 2nd place award will be given as well as two 3rd place awards. **Please try to provide comments at the bottom of the judging sheet along with specific comments in the area provided within each section of the score sheet. Critical comments will greatly aid the students in enhancing their communication skills by pointing out specific areas and points they should improve; however, comments of a complimentary nature for a job well done are also important and appropriate.**

Criteria

1. Given the virtual format of the 2021 WSSA Annual Meeting, all posters will be judged without participation from authors. It will strictly be based on poster content. Students will submit their poster presentation electronically via the WSSA annual meeting website., as a high-quality pdf. Poster contest judges will evaluate each poster and provide appropriate scores back to the student contest chair and co-chair.
2. A clear and technically competent abstract should be provided. The abstract should provide all pertinent information with respect to the research project. Abstract formatting should not be judged given that the WSSA electronic submission abstract submission system does not put all abstracts into a standard format. A score of 0 is to be awarded if no abstract is submitted.
2. Appearance and flow refers to the physical development of the poster. This includes the organization and pattern of the poster and effective use of text, figures, and pictures to convey information in an easily understandable manner. The use of creative “art work”, illustrations, color balance, and general organizational layout of the poster should be a consideration in the category. Proper grammar, sentence structure, spelling, and use of terminology should be considered.
3. The Introduction section of the poster should provide an adequate introduction to the problem as well as provide a thorough, yet concise review of relevant previous research. Contestants should clearly justify reasons for conducting the research and then state objectives. Material should be presented in a clear and interesting manner that will make the audience want to learn more. Originality includes scientific merit and the contribution of the research to Weed Science.
4. Materials and Methods should clearly describe how the research was conducted. All pertinent information with respect to how experiments were conducted should be included. A description of the experimental design utilized should be included as well as statistical analysis of the data. Materials and Methods should be brief but descriptive enough for the audience to understand and evaluate the overall approach used to address the stated objective(s).
5. Results and Discussion are an essential part of any research paper. It is important that the Results and Discussion be supported by the data and interpretation of the data is logical. Findings should be related to other work if available. References should be made to graphs, tables, figures etc. as necessary in the Results and Discussion section.
6. Conclusions should be clear, concise, and easy to follow. In addition, Conclusions must be supported by results. Conclusions should address stated objectives and/or hypothesis.
7. Future Research needs should be included that provide ideas that may result in a greater understanding of the subject. Future Research should address areas of study that are currently lacking data and/or require a greater understanding of the subject matter to determine scientifically sound solutions to the problem at hand.

G. WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA STUDENT 3MT® PRESENTATION CONTEST – JUDGING AREAS OF EMPHASIS

1. Comprehension & Content

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background and significance to the research question being addressed while explaining terminology and avoiding jargon?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the impact and/or results of the research, including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Was the thesis topic, research significance, results/impact and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

2. Engagement

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or generalize their research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
- Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?

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Criteria

- All pre-recorded student presentations will be submitted electronically via the WSSA annual meeting website.
- Oral student presentations will be judged without interaction from judges. All judging will occur on pre-recorded, uploaded content.

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description, the slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration).
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through movement or speech.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.