

STUDENT SYMPOSIUM PAPER COMPETITION

The annual Student Symposium Paper Competition (SSPC) is an ASCE Global eligibility requirement to advance to ASCE Society-wide Competition Finals. The SSPC will be hosted at this year’s ASCE Frontier Student Symposium. At least one representative from each Student Chapter must participate, including paper submission and oral presentation, in the SSPC at the Frontier Student Conference level.

The format of the SSPC follows the requirements outlined for the Society’s Daniel W. Mead Paper Competition for Students to allow the student to not only enter the SSPC, but to also be eligible to submit their paper for the Daniel W. Mead Paper Competition. The Daniel W. Mead Paper Competition has a specific topic outlined each year that can be found here: <https://www.asce.org/career-growth/awards-and-honors/daniel-w-mead-prize-for-students>.

ASCE Frontier Student Symposium will accept any meaningful paper on technical subjects relating to the practice of civil engineering or the Mead topic for the SSPC.

The deadlines for the Mead paper and the SSPC might not coincide and using the Mead topic for the SSPC should not be construed as entry in the Society’s Daniel W. Mead Prize for Students.

The competition entries will be judged at the SSPC based on the inherent quality of the material presented and the effectiveness of its presentation.

The rules governing the competition are as follows:

A. Eligibility¹: The singular author must be a civil engineering undergraduate student carrying a minimum of 9 hours and both an ASCE Student Organization member and Society-level (i.e. ASCE Global) student member in good standing at the time of submission.

In the event the author is unavailable to present at the SSPC, another student from the same school may present on the author’s behalf. The presenter must meet the same requirements outlined above for the author.

B. General Requirements¹: All submittals shall conform to the following requirements:

1. All pages are 8 ½ in. by 11 in. sheets with ½ in. margins.
2. The body text does not exceed 2,000 words in length.
3. Header includes the author’s name, university and “Frontier Student Symposium Paper Contest” with the current symposium year.
4. Written by one (1) person and has not previously been published other than school or Society publications.
5. Reference citations of the papers conform to [Publishing Books with ASCE](#) , which can be found in the ASCE library. A complete bibliography should also be included, as appropriate.

C. One Submission per Student Chapter: Each student chapter of the Frontier Student Conference is entitled to one submission in the Competition. Responsibility for procedures by which the author is selected to represent each individual chapter will rest with the respective chapter faculty advisor. One electronic copy of the paper must be submitted to the Student Activities Competition Coordinator prior to the competition. This submission shall be uploaded following the instructions at the link below. The file name shall read: **SSPC_School Name.pdf**.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Hw1pSVvzp9dSlNhOXs3YHIDThbXZOqPu?usp=sharing>

¹ See Section J: Disqualification

D. Presentation¹:

1. **Format:** A live presentation shall be given by a single presenter. The use of video is permitted, however it shall not include any pre-recorded speaking parts. The presentation will represent a “good faith effort” in which the presenter does not simply recite the paper. The presentation is meant to be a deeper discussion of the contents of the paper.
2. **Timing:** Each presentation is to be (5) five minutes* in duration of formal delivery.
*Allowance of + or – 5 seconds without penalty; 0.1-point penalty per second difference from required 5 minutes (i.e., 5:10 or 4:50 = 1 point penalty).
3. **Questions:** Following the presentation, the Judges will be allowed 5 minutes to ask questions. Answers will be evaluated based on preparation/expertise, confidence level, and conciseness.

E. Judging: Presentations at the contest will be judged by a minimum of three judges selected in advance of the competition by the Student Activities Competition Coordinator. The judges will evaluate the presentations independently and will not compare their ratings until all presentations have been completed. A detailed breakdown of the scoring procedure is outlined in Section I.

F. No Ranking of Papers or Presentations: There will be no stated ranking of the papers or presentations other than the overall placement for first, second and third prize winners.

G. Deadline: The deadline for paper submittals will be announced in the Mailers.

H. Late paper submittals: Late papers will incur 2 point deduction per day late, up to 30 points. Papers submitted more than 15 days after the deadline will not be accepted.

I. Scoring: The presentation will be evaluated by judges (see Section D) with the following maximum point values attributed to specific criteria:

Paper Scoring Criteria (50% of Overall Score)

1. Adherence to topic	20
2. Presence of original ideas and research involved	25
3. Command of subject matter	20
4. Overall clarity, organization, quality of paper & references	15
5. Spelling and grammar	10
6. Conforms to Section B. General Requirements	10
7. Late deductions, 2 points per day	<u>up to 30 points penalty</u>
	Total = 100

Presentation Scoring Criteria (50% of Overall Score)

1. Degree to which presentation addressed and supported key concepts of written paper and theme of contest	25
2. Ability to communicate key concepts from written paper and to convince audience of their importance	25
3. Personal bearing (i.e. appearance, poise, eye contact)	10
4. Delivery style (i.e. reading, memorized, conversational)/pronunciation and proper use of technical language and grammar/enthusiasm and voice projection	15
5. Judges’ Questions	25
6. Time (see Section D.2)	<u>up to 10 points penalty</u>
7. Errors in logic or facts	<u>up to 20 points penalty</u>
	Total = 100

¹ See Section J: Disqualification

J. Disqualification: Your chapter is responsible for understanding the conditions in which a submission may be disqualified. In the event that your submission is disqualified, you will **not** be notified ahead of the competition.

A submission may be disqualified if:

1. The requirements outlined in Section A are not met.
2. Paper does not adhere to the word limit, author, or publication requirements outlined in Section B.
3. The presentation does not constitute a “good faith effort” as outlined in Section D.

¹ See Section J: Disqualification