

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Virginia Section

Hardy Cross - Oratory Competition

RULE SHEET

Students will research a Civil Engineering topic of their choosing. Then, at the conference, each competing student will give a report, in the form of an oral presentation, about his or her chosen topic. Prizes will be given to the top three (3) presenters at the Annual Virginias Student Conference.

Competition Rules

1. Each school participating in the Student Chapter Spring Conference may enter one (1) undergraduate competing student for their ASCE Student Chapter.
2. Each competitor must be a member of the Student Chapter and each competitor must research, prepare, and present his or her own topic. Teams of co-presenters and research teams shall not be allowed.
3. Presentations shall be about a civil engineering topic of the competitor's choosing.
4. Each competitor's presentation is limited to twelve (12) minutes.
5. Competitors are encouraged to use visual aids (Powerpoint, etc.) if desired.
6. Written materials to leave behind are prohibited.
7. The Competitor with the greatest number of points overall (see evaluation sheet for scoring methods) is the winner of the Hardy Cross Competition and will receive an engraved Jefferson cup. Cash prizes awarded by VA Section (1st, 2nd, 3rd=\$500, \$300, \$150 respectively, and are subject to change) The perpetual Hardy Cross bowl and plaque will be awarded to the highest finishing Virginia Section school for exhibition for the following year.
8. **The Competitor and their presentation topic for each school must be submitted via email to sma@asceva.org by no later than March 1st, 2026, to be eligible.** Topics not submitted by the Faculty Advisor (i.e. Students, ASCE Student Chapter President, etc.) will not be eligible to compete.
9. The Virginia Section of ASCE reserves the right to waive inconsistencies with these rules to promote participation, as well as to foster the spirit of competition. Please contact Shaikh Matin at sma@asceva.org or (571) 992-9952 (cell) if you have questions about the rules of this competition or submittal requirements.

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EVALUATION SHEET

Name of Presenter: _____ Date: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

A. PRESENTATION (Time Limit is 12 mins)

1. Delivery and Effectiveness (0 -25%)

Read, spoken from memory, or delivered in conversational natural way? Distracting mannerisms? Clear voice? Heard by entire audience? Voice modulation for emphasis? Were references well chosen? Was meaning well expressed? Was vocabulary sufficient? Arrangement, sequence, continuity, directness of development?

SCORE (%)

2. Objectiveness (0-10%)

Was a concise engineering oriented review of the area given, or was too much personal bias or opinion displayed?

3. Presentation Aids (0-10%)

Were presentation aids effectively utilized? Were major points clarified by illustrations, slides, models, or other visual aids?

4. Timing (0 -5%)

Was the paper presented within the time limit of 12 minutes? Was it over or under this limit by an extreme amount of time?

B.CONTENT OF PRESENTATION

5. Presentation of Problem (0 -15 %)

Explanation of problem background, relevance to Civil Engineering? Concise description of problem statement or report subject?

6. Originality (0-15%)

Was it only a review of another's work, or did it represent ideas and experience of author? Did the author collect his/her data sets or perform own experimentation?

7. Documentation (0 -10%)

Did she/he give adequate and proper reference to source material? Was an attempt made to detail specific design criteria and procedures?

8. Economics and Sustainability (0 -10%)

Were economic factors adequately addressed? How sustainable/feasible was the project?

Name of Judge: _____

TOTAL= _____