

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Virginia Section

Robert A. Marr, Jr. Technical Paper Competition

RULE SHEET

Students will research a Civil Engineering topic of their choosing and prepare a technical paper. Prizes will be given to the authors of the top three (3) technical papers submitted by student chapter members of ASCE. Winners will be announced at the Virginia Student Conference.

Competition Rules

1. Each school participating in the Virginia Student Conference may submit one (1) paper for each ten (10) members of their ASCE Student Chapter, with a maximum of five (5) papers per Student Chapter.
2. Each author must be an undergraduate member of the Student Chapter, and each paper must be prepared by the author of record except where two or more persons may be joint authors, but each person must be an undergraduate member of the Student Chapter.
3. Papers must be about a civil engineering topic of the author's choosing. Only papers prepared within the past twelve (12) months may be submitted.
4. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, single-sided, with 1-inch minimum margins being maintained on all sides. Each paper is to have a cover page that will include (a) Name of author(s), (b) Institution, (c) Date, and (d) Title. Each paper is to have a summary or abstract on the following page. The title page and summary/abstract page will be detached and numbers will be assigned so that judges who review the papers will not know the authors or the institutions. A table of contents is not required.
5. Each paper will be limited to twelve (12) typed pages, exclusive of the title and summary/abstract pages. Bibliography, drawings, graphs, photography, and other figures are to be counted in the twelve pages; that is, each separate drawing (which must be folded down to a 8 ½" x 11" page) will be counted as one page. Figures may, of course, be included within the typed material of the paper to save space.
6. Cash prizes and plaques will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd places by the VA Section (1st, 2nd, 3rd=\$500, \$300, \$150 respectively, and are subject to change).
7. **Papers must be submitted by the Faculty Advisor via email to smatin@asceva.org by no later than March 1st, 2026, to be eligible. Papers not submitted by the Faculty Advisor (i.e. Students, ASCE Student Chapter President, etc.) will not be eligible to compete.**
8. 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 smatin@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

The following information is provided to assist individuals preparing submissions for the Robert A. Marr, Jr. Technical Paper Competition and to promote consistency in the presentation, review, and scoring of submissions.

Each paper will be evaluated by a team of judges against five criteria (described below). A score between one (1) and ten (10) will be assigned to each criterion for each paper as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| • Outstanding | 9 -10 |
| • Above Average | 7-8 |
| • Average | 5-6 |
| • Below Average | 3-4 |
| • Poor | 1-2 |

A total of fifty (50) points (maximum) will be possible from each judge for each paper. Average score will be used to determine the winner.

_____ **Originality:** The paper should deal with new concepts or novel applications of established concepts. It may describe improvements of existing theories or present new data in support and extension of these theories. Comparative or supportive data should be included.

_____ **Status of Project:** The paper should establish that the project is well developed and should present data or results to support the hypothesis. Data should have been subjected to preliminary analysis, at a minimum. Preference should be given to projects showing concrete results with practical applications.

_____ **Technical Content:** The objectives and scope of the project should be stated. The conditions under which the data were obtained and the general procedures/methodology used should be presented. Conclusions should be drawn directly from the investigation.

_____ **Benefits and Significance:** Actual benefits and potential applications should be reported. Does the project have the potential to help improve the environment or quality of life? Does the report address savings in time and money? Are there other benefits that are clearly possible?

_____ **Quality:** The quality of a paper is indicative of the effort expended. Authors should prepare their papers with care, paying attention to style, organization of the paper, graphical elements, format, and accuracy of the data presented.

TOTAL SCORE = _____

JUDGE = _____