

51st CONNECTICUT JUNIOR SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM
THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
U-3262, STORRS, CT 06269-3262

GUIDELINES for the PRESENTATION of STUDENT RESEARCH PAPERS

At JSHS Symposia, students present papers similar to those contributed by scientists and engineers at their meetings. These are concise reports of work done personally. They provide opportunities to demonstrate skill in making research results understood and appreciated. A moderator who will introduce the speakers and time the presentations runs the sessions.

Timing of Papers

The research presentation may not exceed 12 minutes, followed by a maximum 5-minute question period. The session moderator will aid the student speaker in maintaining this schedule and in fielding questions from the audience. The procedure for maintaining the time includes a 10-minute signal for the student, and finally a 12-minute signal. At the 12-minute point, the student speaker must stop the presentation even if he or she has not finished. *During the question period, the speaker should repeat a question before answering it* so that everyone may clearly understand the whole dialog.

Requirements

1. We will have computers ready to accept your presentation on USB drives as well as the ability to connect your laptop (PC or Mac – have your adapter with you) to our auditorium projector. Visuals must be easily readable from the back of a large lecture hall.
2. Handouts are not permitted. Research apparatuses may not be brought to the Symposium.

Suggestions

1. The number of visuals should be minimized; it is ineffective to flash a large number of images before an audience. Each should be interpreted unhurriedly, stating what it means. When a graph is shown, the variables on both axes should be named (even though they are labeled) and the significance of the position and shape of the graph line should be stated. The significance of the values should be commented upon as well.
2. The level of experience and preparation of the audience should be kept in mind. You should prepare a 2-3 minute introduction to bring the presentation to the level of your audience. However, if a question from the floor is couched in college level terms it may be answered on that level.
3. The presentation usually has to be a "broad-brush" outline of what was done. Most of the audience will be more appreciative of hearing an overview of why the experiments were done and having special vocabulary words explained than to hear a recital of procedural steps.
4. Several practice presentations before audiences not acquainted with the research performed are recommended. Trials aid in adjustment of the timing.

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Judging of the Presentation

JSHS judges *do not* interview the student speakers. The following factors are taken into account in the evaluation of the presentation:

A. Quality of research design:

1. Clarity of the statement of the problem
2. Identification of the variables
3. Suitability of research equipment
4. Recognition of limitations in the data
5. Degree to which the data supports the conclusions
6. Uniqueness of, or originality in, the research topic

B. Quality of presentation

1. Abstract
2. Organization and style of the presentation
3. Clarity of expression of graphs and tables
4. Handling of questions from the viewers

Enclosed is a copy of the evaluation form that the judges will be using at this year's Symposium.

Instructions for Poster Paper Authors

1. Each poster presenter will be provided a table for their self-standing poster 48" x 36", there may be a title on top. Larger boards will be given a penalty. Presenters should have their boards up at least one-half hour prior to the opening of the session and must remove them within one-half hour after the symposium ends.
2. All posters should be prepared in advance as materials for these purposes will not be available at the meeting site. We will not produce posters for a student on-site.
3. **Each poster must have a title and the presenter's name on it.** Material will have to be read by attendees from a distance of 3 feet or more, so font size should be large and legible. Materials should be displayed in logical sequence (introduction, development, conclusion, etc.).
4. The poster does not need to be "artsy" but using techniques and background color to help your poster stand out will improve the graphic impact and enhance the effectiveness of your poster presentation. Please note, however, that simplicity, ease of reading, etc. are more important than artistic flair.
5. Presenters may wish to bring your laboratory notebook or additional reference material to have at their poster. Security is not guaranteed so please do not leave any expensive equipment or anything of value by your poster.