

SCIENCE WRITING CONTEST

The Science Engineering Fair of Houston invites all participants in school or district level science fairs that are affiliated with SEFH to submit papers about their projects to the annual Science Writing Contest. Goals of the contest include the following:

- *To encourage development of analytical thinking and writing.
- *To recognize and reward excellence in technical writing.
- *To promote awareness of the importance of effective communication in science and technology.

Eligibility

If you are a participant in this year's SEFH or an SEFH affiliated school or district level science fair, you are eligible to submit a research paper and other materials you have prepared for your Science Fair project. Your project must adhere to the research and approval rules established by SEFH. Team projects are not eligible. There is no entry fee or entry quota for a school or district.

Awards

Winners will be recognized at the SEFH Awards Ceremony at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Students will be informed of their awards prior to the ceremony. First, Second, Third Place, and Honorable Mention awards, where appropriate, will be presented in each division. Winning entries in the Senior Division may be eligible for competition in the International Student Technical Writing Contest sponsored by the Society for Technical Communication. Previous SEFH winners have been very successful in this competition.

Preparation of the Entry

Discuss the format and content of the paper with your supervising teacher to satisfy particular requirements for your topic. An abstract and bibliography/reference list should be included. Credit to those who assisted you with your project, including individuals, businesses, educational or research institutions should be included in an Acknowledgments section. Reference notes are encouraged. Number all pages. In addition to the paper, you may submit any or all of the following supporting materials: graphics, illustrations, photographs, or sample programs. Be conservative in your use of color printing. Guidelines for Citing References are presented on the next page. Supporting materials enhance the communication process but should be relevant and clearly labeled. Since entries cannot be returned, you may want to make duplicate copies of the paper, as well as the supporting materials, if you intend to include them with your project display.

1. Type the paper, using double-spacing, on one side of good quality 8 1/2 inch by 11 inch paper.
2. Put the following information on a cover sheet, which will be removed prior to judging:

Name:	School Telephone Number:
Home Address and Zip Code:	Name of Principal:
Home Telephone Number:	Name of Supervising Teacher:
Grade Level:	Title of Paper:
School:	Purpose of Paper:
School Address and Zip Code:	Intended Audience:
3. Behind the cover sheet, put a title page, but do not include your name or other identifying information.
4. Staple your cover sheet, title page, abstract, paper, bibliography and supporting materials in the upper-left corner.
5. To assure impartial judging, please adhere to the following: (1) Do not put your name on any of the pages of the paper or supporting materials; (2) Do not identify your school, school district, principal, supervising teacher or parents on any of the pages, or make reference to them in the paper.

Submission of the Entry

Send the entry prior to the deadline date listed in the Calendar of Events to: **Dr. Patricia Golemon, SEFH Science Writing Contest, c/o UH-Downtown, One Main Street, S-1046, Houston, TX 77002.**

Judging Criteria

A team composed of scientists and professional writers will review all of the entries, selecting winners for their clear statements of purpose; logical organization of writing and scientific argument; conciseness and consistency in word choice; relevance of the graphics to the text; skillful execution of the graphics; and competent use of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. See the last page for a copy of the judging sheet used by SEFH essay judges. These criteria were developed by the international contest to which the top three winners of the SEFH Senior division essay contest will be submitted.

For more information about the Science Writing Contest, contact Dr. Patricia Golemon at (713) 221-2772 or by e-mail at golemonp@uhd.edu.

Guidelines for Citing References

In general, the author of a scientific or technical document is responsible for providing complete and accurate references so that a reader may locate the original reference material. Cited references should relate directly to statements, illustrations, data and other material included in the document. The complete listing of references should follow the body of the text and should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are mentioned. References located in the text, tables, and legends should be annotated at the point of use by Arabic numerals contained within parentheses – multiple cited references should be separated by a comma, for example (17, 19, 23). Finally, they should be single spaced.

Here are a few examples taken from the U.S. National Library of Medicine Uniform Resource Locator website at (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html) Find the one resembling most the source you have to cite and use the example's format to construct your reference.

Books:

Individual author(s)

Murray PR, Rosenthal KS, Kobayashi GS, Pfaller MA. Medical microbiology. 4th ed. St. Louis: Mosby; 2002.

Editor(s) as author(s)

Gilstrap LC 3rd, Cunningham FG, VanDorsten JP, editors. Operative obstetrics. 2nd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill; 2002.

Organization(s) as author

Royal Adelaide Hospital; University of Adelaide, Department of Clinical Nursing. Compendium of nursing research and practice development, 1999-2000. Adelaide (Australia): Adelaide University; 2001.

Chapter in a book

Meltzer PS, Kallioniemi A, Trent JM. Chromosome alterations in human solid tumors. In: Vogelstein B, Kinzler KW, editors. The genetic basis of human cancer. New York: McGraw-Hill; 2002. p. 93-113.

Journals/Magazines:

Standard article

Halpern SD, Ubel PA, Caplan AL. Solid-organ transplantation in HIV-infected patients. N Engl J Med. 2002 Jul 25; 347:284-7.

No author given

21st century heart solution may have a sting in the tail. British Med J. 2002;325:184.

Organization as author

Diabetes Prevention Program Research Group. Hypertension, insulin, and proinsulin in participants with impaired glucose tolerance. Hypertension. 2002;40:679-86.

Article in a Journal supplement

Glauser TA. Integrating clinical trial data into clinical practice. Neurology. 2002;58(12 Suppl 7):S6-12.

Scientific or technical report

Yen GG (Oklahoma State University, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Stillwater, OK). Health monitoring on vibration signatures. Final report. Arlington (VA): Air Force Office of Scientific Research (US), Air Force Research Laboratory; 2002 Feb. Report No.: AFRLSRBLTR020123. Contract No.: F496209810049.

Other Published Material:

Newspaper article

Tynan T. Medical improvements lower homicide rate: study sees drop in assault rate. The Washington Post. 2002 Aug 12; Sect. A:2 (col. 4).

Dictionary and similar references

Dorland's illustrated medical dictionary. 29th ed. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders; 2000. Filamin; p. 675.

Computer file

Renal system [computer program]. MS-DOS version. Edwardsville, KS: Medi-Sim; 1988.

Classical material

The Winter's Tale: act 5 scene 1, lines 13-16. The complete works of William Shakespeare. London: Rex, 1973.

Electronic Material:

CD-RomUI

Anderson SC, Poulsen KB. Anderson's electronic atlas of hematology [CD-ROM]. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2002.

Journal article on the internet

Jacobsen JW, Mulick JA, Schwartz AA. A history of facilitate communications: Science, pseudoscience, and antiscience: Science working group on facilitated communication. Am Psychol 1995;. 50: 750-65. Retrieved January 25, 1996, from the World Wide Web: <http://www.apa.org/journals/jacobson.html>

Homepage/Web site

Cancer-Pain.org [homepage on the Internet]. New York: Association of Cancer Online Resources, Inc.; c2000-01 [updated 2002 May 16; cited 2002 Jul 9]. Available from: <http://www.cancer-pain.org>.

Database on the Internet

MeSH Browser [database on the Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US); 2002- [cited 2003 June 10]. Meta-analysis; unique ID: D015201; [about 3 p.] Available from: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowser.html> Files updated weekly

Paper Title: _____

Judging Sheet

Objective Tone - does not inject unsubstantiated opinion

Score: 0 -5 _____

Purpose - thesis of entry is clearly stated

Score: 0 -10 _____

Significance/Audience - explains significance of topic to audience

Score: 0 -10 _____

Organization - structure of the entry is clear; conclusions are adequately supported; pages are numbered

Score: 0 -10 _____

Focused Writing - uses active voice, doesn't ramble

Score: 0 -5 _____

Word Choice - uses appropriate, precise word choice

Score: 0 -5 _____

Standard Usage - uses proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation

Score: 0 -5 _____

References - uses references, footnotes, bibliography, and links appropriately; attributes sources

Score: 0 - 10 _____

Graphics - graphics are clear and comprehensible

Score: 0 -5 _____

Effectiveness - the whole entry is effective in its purpose for its audience

Score: 0 - 10 _____

TOTAL _____