

MATERIAL ADVANTAGE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKING CONTEST RULES

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Material Advantage Student Speaking Contest is to encourage undergraduate students to improve their technical presentation skills.

II. Subject

The subject must be technical (although may include historical aspects). It need not be research done by an entrant but must have relevance to the field of materials science.

III. Eligibility

1. Up to two students can participate from a single school. For schools with Material Advantage chapters, the Material Advantage Faculty Advisor will be asked to report the participant(s) based on a local chapter selection process.* Students from schools without Material Advantage chapters may apply directly, and the first two applicants from that school will be entered into the contest.

**A local speaking contest may be organized by the Material Advantage chapter with guidance from the Material Advantage Faculty Advisor. Holding a local speaking contest is not a requirement to participate but encouraged when possible.*

2. Student applicants must be an undergraduate member of Material Advantage at the time of the contest.
3. Previous first place winners of the speaking contest at MS&T are not eligible to enter.
4. The speaking contest at MS&T will be limited to the first 30 entrants reported to the organizer.

IV. Format of National Contest

1. Each contestant will be allowed six to eight minutes for their presentation. A speaker will be penalized 10 points if the presentation is less than 6 minutes or exceeds 8 minutes.

UNDERGRADUATE SPEAKING CONTEST RULES (continued)

2. There will be no floor discussion of the presentations.
3. Student will be expected to have a visual presentation to go along with their talk. As such, the following equipment will be available for each presenter:
 - Laptop computer
 - Laser pointer/Presentation remote
 - LCD projector/Screen
 - Podium wireless microphone
4. All entrants will be evenly split to speak in concurrent semifinal rounds. Two entrants from each semifinal will advance to the final round.

V. Judging of Speaking Contest at MS&T

1. Faculty members affiliated with schools that have current participants in the contest are excluded from judging the MS&T contest. Three judges shall be selected for each of the concurrent semifinal rounds. Three different judges shall be selected by the Material Advantage Student Program for the final round when possible.
2. Judges will use the designated scoring sheet.
3. At least two minutes will be allowed for the judges to fill out the scoring sheets between presentations.
4. Two out of the three judges must agree on the winner of the final round.
5. A space should be made available to allow the judges to confer in private.

VI. Prizes

1. Cash prizes to be awarded to contest winners as follows: \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place, \$150 for third place, and \$100 for fourth place.