

N S R T
R E S E A R C H P A P E R C O M P E T I T I O N
R U L E S

1. CLASSIFICATIONS

There will be three (3) classifications of research paper competition. They shall be:

1. **Registered Technologist** - This includes any technologist who is certified and/or registered by a nationally recognized professional certification agency for radiologic sciences.
 2. **Certified and/or Registered Technologist enrolled as a Student in a Second Primary or Post-Primary Program** – This includes a nationally certified and/or registered technologists currently enrolled in a second primary or a post-primary program.
 3. **Student** – This includes students currently enrolled in a professional radiation science professional programs recognized by an appropriate national accreditation agency. These participants shall not be certified and/or registered by a nationally recognized radiation science professional certification agency.
- A. Students enrolled in programs described in either Classification 2 or 3 SHALL NOT compete in Classification 1.
- B. Technologists, NOT enrolled as full-time students in programs as described in Classification 2, SHALL NOT compete in either Classification 2 or 3.

2. PRIZE

- A. First, second and third place awards shall be awarded, **only if a minimum of 80% is received from each judge.**
- B. Awards will be determined by the Board of Directors on a yearly basis.
- C. In the event of a TIE, the two or more entries will receive the same award.
- D. Only 3 awards will be presented. If a 1st place 2-way tie occurs, there will be no 3rd place award. If there is a 3-way tie or more, there will be no 2nd or 3rd place award given. In an event of a 2-way tie or more for 2nd place, there will be no 3rd place award. If there is a 2-way tie for 1st place and a 2-way or more tie for 2nd place, no 3rd place award will be given; however, all 1st and 2nd place papers will receive awards. If there is a 2-way tie or more for 3rd place, awards will be given to all research paper winners.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Any member of the NSRT in good standing, at the time of application, is eligible to compete for awards. The current NSRT President is ineligible for research paper competition.
- B. Research papers submitted for award consideration must not have been previously submitted, published or received an award at another competition.

4. DEADLINE

All research papers to be judged must be received by the Competition Chairman or other designated individual prior to a date determined by the Board of Directors. Applications and requested deadline dates will be available on the NSRT website (www.nsrt.net) or from the NSRT Executive Office.

5. SELECTION OF JUDGES

- A. Three (3) judges shall be appointed by the President and their names will be withheld from publication. Identities of the judges shall be known only to the Executive Board and, at the President's discretion, may be acknowledged at the Awards Luncheon.
- B. Judges must decline appointments if (1) they have knowledge of a participant's research paper, (2) have assisted a participant in developing his/her research paper, or (3) have reviewed a participant's research paper.

6. RESEARCH PAPERS

- A. All research papers must be original compositions not previously submitted or published or prior to the Annual Conference. Plagiarism will be grounds for disqualification.
- B. All research papers shall clearly demonstrate a relationship of the topic to the field of radiation sciences or the role of radiation science professionals.
- C. To be current with publication guidelines, all research papers shall be prepared in either AMA or APA research paper style** except for the highlighted areas that differ; submitted on white 8 1/2 X 11 inch paper, typewritten, double-spaced, font style of **Times New Roman with a font size of 12, ALL margins are to be set at 1", using one side of the paper only. Page number to be placed flush right in a 0.5 RUNNING HEADER.**

(AMA reference styles can be found at

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/ama_style/index.html

(APA reference styles can be found at

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html)

Another helpful website for writing research papers:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/index.html

**Note that any publication submitted to the American Society of Radiologic Technologists for journal use must utilize the AMA citation style.

- D. Each research paper shall contain an abstract or thesis paragraph. This paragraph shall give a brief summary, **150 words or less**, to inform the judge of the paper's content. This is not to be considered part of the body of the research paper and shall be a separate page placed prior to the body of the paper and will not be included in the word count. On the first line of the abstract page, center the word "Abstract" (no bold, formatting, italics, underlining, or quotation marks). The abstract or thesis paragraph is to be double-spaced and utilize the same margins, font and spacing as the body of the text. (See Section 7 for research paper order)
- E. The research paper (excluding the abstract paragraph) must be a **minimum of 1000** words. Illustrations, graphs, images, etc. may be included in the body; however, the wording within the graphs and illustrations, as well as the caption of said graphs and illustrations, may not be included in the word count of the paper. There shall be no limit to the length of the research papers.
- F. All images, illustrations and graphs must be cited.
- G. Each research paper shall indicate the research paper and reference citing style (AMA or APA) utilized **on the Reference Page**. This may be placed at the beginning or end of the reference listings.
- H. Each contestant shall submit the following to the individual designated on the application:
- Completed and signed application
 - 3 hard copies of the entire research paper.
 - The title page shall contain the TITLE ONLY
 - Each copy shall be securely fastened together in the left hand margin and placed into a two-pocket portfolio
 - An electronic version of the research paper containing a title page including the authors name, will be sent electronically to the designated individual **as a word document** (.doc or .docx).

Please note that a copy of the original should be retained by the author.
The digital copy of the research paper will be retained by the NSRT.

- I. Research papers not following the guidelines of these rules will not be eligible for a competition award. All research papers will be evaluated for adherence to the rules, by the NSRT Competition Chairman or designated individual, prior to judging. Those not following the guidelines will not be eligible to receive an award.

7. FORMAT

Required format and order for research papers:

- Cover page or Title page (separate page)
- Abstract / Thesis (separate page)
- Body to include introduction and conclusions (minimum of 1000 words – see Rule 6 E)
- References (separate pages)

Research paper and reference citing style is to be noted on the Reference Page.

Each research paper is to be securely fastened at the left margin and placed in a suitable two-pocket portfolio.

8. ILLUSTRATIONS

- A. Illustrations may accompany the research papers, if deemed necessary.
- B. If used, all illustrations must be marked with figure indications that correspond to the information contained in the body of the research paper and they must be accompanied with a suitable explanation. They should be incorporated into the research paper in proper sequence or on a sheet following the research paper proper, but within the same two-pocket portfolio.
- C. Preferably, all copies should have accompanying illustrations. If impossible, the original must include the illustration.

9. PERSONAL COMMUNICATION

Identification of the individual in a personal communication will not result in a disqualification of the research paper. A student may use personal communication in his or her research paper. However, the personal communication must be documented in the proper format according to APA or AMA style.

10. EVALUATION OF RESEARCH PAPER

A. Upon submission of the research Paper the Competition Chairman or a designated individual will review each research paper to assure that it meets the following NSRT guidelines:

- Number of copies of research paper submitted
- Paper length (1000 word minimum as stated in 6E)
- Pages fastened at left margin
- Placed in a two-pocket portfolio
- Presence of a title page or cover page
- Presence of an abstract or thesis paragraph (150 words or less)
- Complies with margins as stipulated in 6C.
- Double spaced
- Typewritten using Times New Roman 12
- Pages numbered appropriately
- Absence of school or author identification
- Use of AMA or APA style
- Identification of style used (AMA or APA) in the research paper is stated on Reference Page
- Images referenced
- Images not extending into the margin space.

B. **Submitted research papers, which fail to meet the above guidelines, will be immediately disqualified.** The Competition Chairman will notify the Program Director for the student or the author of the disqualification and the reasons for the disqualification.

Disqualified research papers (Those not adhering to the guidelines set forth in 10A) will be sent to the judges for evaluation; however, they will not be eligible for awards.

C. Each judge will receive a copy of all the research papers and will evaluate each research paper using the NSRT Research Paper Rubric.

D. Judges will complete the judging sheet for each research paper making comments to provide information to the author regarding grade.

E. NO RESEARCH PAPER WILL BE DISQUALIFIED BY A JUDGE.

F. If a judge feels a research paper deserves disqualification, this should be reflected by the score and noted on the judging sheet.



NSRT Research Paper Competition Judging Sheet



Classification _____

Research Paper # _____

Title: _____

This research paper has been evaluated for adherence to the rules and guidelines set forth by the current NSRT Competition Rules

Category	Exceeds standard (8-6 pts)	Meets standard (5-3 pts)	Nearly meets standard (2-1 pts)	Does not meet standard (0 pts)	Points
Exhibit Topic Relevance & Originality	The topic is focused narrowly and demonstrates a clear relevance to the field of radiology.	The topic is somewhat focused and demonstrates a clear relevance to the field of radiology.	The topic is too broad for the scope of this research paper and/or demonstrates little to no relevance to the field of radiology.	The topic was not clearly defined and the research paper did not demonstrate a relevance to the field of radiology.	
Research Quality	Included facts, quotes, & paraphrasing from reliable sources. Sources included current (within the last five years) peer reviewed journal articles and/or other scholarly resources. All web sites utilized are authoritative.	Included facts, conclusions, and opinions from reliable sources. Most sources included current peer reviewed journal articles and/or other scholarly resources. Most web sites utilized are authoritative.	Included a mix of cited facts from reputable sources and opinions from unreliable or outdated sources. Few sources included peer reviewed journal articles and/or other scholarly resources. Not all web sites utilized are credible, and/or sources are not current.	Included more opinion than fact. Sources did not include peer reviewed journal articles and/or other scholarly resources. Not all web sites utilized are credible, and/or sources are not current.	
Integration of Knowledge	The research paper demonstrates that the author has clear working knowledge of the selected topic. All details were unique and related to and supported the main idea. Writing included original ideas along with information based on fact.	The research paper demonstrates that the author understands the selected topic. Writing had many details which supported the main idea and most information presented was based on fact.	The research paper demonstrates that the author understands and has applied concepts related to the selected topic. Writing had three or more details that supported the main idea, although some information presented was not based on fact.	The research paper does not demonstrate that the author has fully understood and applied concepts related to the selected topic. Writing had few details and little of the information presented was based on fact.	
Cohesiveness, Design Layout and Organization	The content of the research paper was well organized with headings and/or subheadings, making the research paper easy to read and follow.	The content of the research paper was organized with heading and/or subheadings.	Most of the content of the research paper was organized. The order of text sometimes made the research paper difficult to read and follow.	The content of the research paper was difficult to read and follow. There is no clear structure. The flow of text was random.	
Citations	Information, opinions, and work done by others are clearly and correctly cited throughout the research paper, images and graphics.	Information, opinions, images, graphics and work done by others are clearly cited with minimal (1-2) errors.	Information, opinions, images, graphics and work done by others are clearly cited although noticeable (3-4) errors are noted.	Information, opinions, images, graphics and work done by others are not cited and/or there are unacceptable (5 or more) errors.	
Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation.	No spelling, grammar or punctuation errors.	Minimal (1-2) spelling, grammar or punctuation errors.	Noticeable (3-4) spelling, grammar or punctuation errors.	Unacceptable (5 or greater) spelling, grammar and/or punctuation errors.	
				TOTAL Rubric Points:	

Overall Quality of Research paper

Please rank the overall quality of the research paper for readability, interest and flow.

(circle point ranking)

Poor: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Average: 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

Outstanding: 21 22 23 24 25

Total Rubric Points + Overall Quality Points = Total Score: _____

(Maximum Score possible = 73)

Comments: