

## **STUDENT SPEAKING CONTEST RULES**

### **I. Purpose**

The purpose of the Student Speaking Contest is to encourage undergraduate students to present technical papers and to improve their skills in the techniques of presentation.

### **II. Eligibility**

1. All schools and departments are allowed one entry in the Student Speaking Contest at MS&T. The student must be a member of Material Advantage at the time of the local and national contests.
2. The student must be an undergraduate majoring in materials science or a related field at the time he or she is chosen as an entrant.
3. Previous first place winners of the National Contest are not eligible to be entrants.

### **III. Selection of Entrant**

1. Each entrant will be the winner of a local speaking contest, which will have had at least two contestants.
2. Local contests shall be directed by the Material Advantage Faculty Advisor of the Material Advantage Chapter or a member of the Department Faculty at schools without a Material Advantage Chapter.
3. The name of the winner shall be reported to the organizer of the Student Speaking Contest no later than the date posted on the Material Advantage website.
4. The national contest at MS&T will be limited to the first 20 entrants reported to the Organizer. Number of entrants subject to change based on funds availability in any given year.

### **IV. Format of National Contest**

1. The subject must be technical (but may include historical aspects). It need not be a report of work done by an entrant, but must have recognized importance to the field of materials science.
2. 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.
3. There will be no floor discussion of the presentations.
4. Use of visual aids is acceptable.
5. All entrants will be randomly and evenly split to speak in concurrent semifinal rounds. Two entrants from each semifinal will advance to the final round.

## **V. Judging of the National Contest at MS&T**

1. Faculty members are excluded from judging the National Contest. Three judges shall be selected by the Material Advantage Student Program for the final round. Three different judges shall be selected for each of the concurrent semifinal rounds.
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. In the event that no clear decision can be reached regarding a winner, it will be the responsibility of the Contest Organizer to resolve the issue. In the event that a finalist and the Organizer represent the same school, the Organizer will designate another Organizer (one that represents a school different from any of the finalists) to serve in his or her place.
6. A room should be made available to allow the judges to confer in private.

## **VI. Prizes**

1. Each contestant will receive a \$200-\$300 travel allowance to the MS&T Conference. The exact amount of the allowance depends on the number of entrants and total funds budgeted to the contest. Contestants must participate in the semifinal and final rounds (if selected) in order to receive the travel allowance. The travel allowance will be made available after the conclusion of the speaking contest.
2. Prizes include: (i) a cash award of \$200 to the winner, (ii) a cash award of \$100 to the First runner-up, and (iii) a cash award of \$50 to two (2) Second runners-up.