

NATIONAL 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 with Materials Advantage Student Chapters are allowed one entry in the Student Speaking Contest at MS&T. The student must be a member of a Materials Advantage Student Chapter at the time of the local and national contests.
2. The student must be an undergraduate majoring in any materials science or related field at the time he/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.
3. The name of the winner shall be reported to the organizer of the Material Advantage Student Speaking Contest no later than September 23rd, 2011.

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 materials science field.
2. Each contestant will be allowed six to eight minutes for presentation. A speaker will be penalized 10 points if the talk exceeds 8 minutes or is less than 6 minutes.
3. There will be no floor discussion on the papers.
4. Use of visual aids is acceptable.
5. All entrants will be randomly and evenly split to speak at one of two concurrent semifinals. Two entrants from each semifinal will advance to the finals.

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

1. Faculty are excluded from judging the National Contest. Three judges shall be selected by the Materials Advantage Student Program for the finals. Three different judges shall be selected for each of the two concurrent semifinal rounds. The criteria for selection should be the same as for the finals; however, faculty may serve as judges.
2. Judges will use the designated scoring sheet.
4. At least two minutes will be allowed for the judges to fill out the scoring sheets.
5. Two out of the three judges must agree on the winner in the finals.
6. In the event that no clear decision can be reached on the 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 finalist) to serve in his/her place.
7. 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 MS&T. The exact amount of the allowance depends on the number of entrants and total funds budgeted to the contest. Contestants must participate in the semifinals and finals (if selected) in order to receive the travel allowance. The travel allowance will be made available after the conclusion of the speaking contest finals.
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.