Student Chapter Competitions for Spring 2024

Organized by SFB National Student Chapter

The SFB National Student Chapter is pleased to announce a series of new competitions for Student Chapters. Student Chapters can choose from the following list of competitions to host: (1) 3-Minute Thesis ("3MT"), (2) Virtual Poster, (3) Artistic Rendition of Research, and (4) Op-Ed Challenge. The 1st place winner at each competing university will receive a complimentary registration to their local 2024 Regional Symposia meeting.

In addition, the winners of the Artistic Rendition of Research competition and Op-Ed Challenge will have the opportunity to have their work showcased in the SFB *Biomaterials Forum*. The National Student Chapter, along with an independent faculty panel, will select the top Op-Ed submission for publication in SFB *Biomaterials Forum.* The top Artistic Rendition will be featured on the front page of the SFB *Biomaterials Forum.* The judging rubrics outlined below are the same rubrics that will be used for judging by the National Student Chapter and faculty panel.

Eligibility

- The Student Chapter must be registered and be in good standing with the Society for Biomaterials. *(Should your institution need to renew, or is interested in forming, please reach out to Shena Seppanen at sseppanen@biomaterials.org.)*
- Each institution may submit only one (1) 1st place winner.
- The 1st place winner must be an active student member of SFB.

Timeline and Submission

- Now - May 1st, 2024: Chapters hold local qualifying competitions
- Now - June 1st, 2024: Each Student Chapter will submit the name and email of the winner and a copy of their presentation/art/poster/etc to this **Google Form**.
- July 1st: The winners will be notified of their award.

Questions on the competitions may be directed to: SFBstudents@gmail.com

3-Minute Thesis Competition

In a 3-Minute Thesis ("3MT") Competition, students present a single static slide as a compelling summary of their dissertation research and its broader impacts. Presentations must be at most three minutes and targeted to a non-technical audience. 3MT is a great way to practice your presentation skills and think about how to convey the significance of your work.

Rules

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description are allowed. The slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum. Presenters are cut off if they exceed 5 seconds of overage.
- Presentations are to be plain-spoken word (eg. no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their speech.
- The decision of the judges is final.

Judging Criteria

The following criteria will guide the judges' decisions. Each criterion is equally weighted and has an emphasis on the audience.

Comprehension and content

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background and significance to the research question being addressed, while explaining terminology and avoiding jargon?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the impact and/or results of the research, including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Was the thesis topic, research significance, results/impact and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

Engagement and communication

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or generalize their research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
- Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?

Example Judging Rubric

Scores: 1-10; 10 is high (excellent) and 1 is low (poor)

		Participant Name
Judge	Category	
1	Comprehension and Content	
	Engagement and Communication	
2	Comprehension and Content	
	Engagement and Communication	
3	Comprehension and Content	
	Engagement and Communication	
4	Comprehension and Content	
	Engagement and Communication	
Composite Score		

For more guidance on how to create a 3MT presentation, visit the [following website](#) from University of Sussex.

Virtual Poster Competition

A virtual poster competition is an excellent opportunity for developing research presentation skills. These skills are highly important in both academia and professional workplaces, however attending scientific conferences to professionally present research is not accessible to everyone. The virtual poster competition will provide the experience of presenting scientific research without the traditional barrier of traveling to a conference.

Rules

- To participate, students must first submit their abstract.
    - Abstracts must be submitted by the submission deadline set by the Student Chapter.
    - The abstract should be no more than 250 words.
- Poster presentation
    - The poster must be one page, high resolution PDF (recommended size: 40 x 50 inches, landscape orientation).

Judging Criteria

Possible formats for judging include: (1) creating a short video to accompany the poster, which should be designed for the judges to watch as if the student was presenting at an in-person poster session, or (2) judges attend live presentations by the students on Zoom.

The following criteria will guide the judges' decisions:

1. Literature review: Gaps in knowledge/initial exploration identified. Clearly defined research question, objectives, and/or hypothesis.
2. Methods: clear description of techniques used, and appropriateness of the methods used.
3. Results: Appropriate use of figures and tables to represent the data. Clear and accurate presentation of the data. Explanation of results and does the results link back to the hypothesis?
4. Conclusions, Discussion: Are the conclusions sufficiently supported by the results? Are future directions and/or predictions of future outcomes addressed? Is there a framing of the "big picture"?
5. Poster presentation: Overall aesthetics and ease of viewing (white space, poster flow, spelling, grammar); presenter's confidence and ability to answer questions
6. Overall potential of research

Example Judging Rubric

Scores: 1-10; 10 is high (excellent) and 1 is low (poor)

		Participant Name
Judge	Category	
1	Literature Review	
	Methods	
	Results	
	Conclusions, Discussion	
	Poster presentation	
	Overall potential of research	
2	Literature Review	
	Methods	
	Results	
	Conclusions, Discussion	
	Poster presentation	
	Overall potential of research	
3	Literature Review	
	Methods	
	Results	
	Conclusions, Discussion	
	Poster presentation	
	Overall potential of research	
Composite Score		

*Rules and Judging Criteria have been adapted from the University of Texas at Austin, Harvard University, and Advancing Earth and Space Science guidelines on Virtual Poster Showcases
https://www.agu.org/learn-and-develop/learn/student-competitions/virtual-poster-showcase/how-to-participate

Artistic Rendition of Research Competition

Students can create an artistic visualization of their research, which can include sketches, infographics, photographs, graphical abstracts, or any other artistic medium that allows them to creatively convey the essence of their scientific work. The artistic rendition should be designed in such a way that someone skimming through papers or scrolling a website or social media feed can understand the basics of what you did/what you found at a glance.

Rules
- There will be no standard format for the artistic rendition, as it can include any artistic medium that describes the scientific work.
- Artwork is of high quality (correct resolution, not blurred, stretched, or pixelated.
- The artistic rendition must be submitted as a high resolution PDF.
- Synopsis statement: please provide a short 20 word description of your artistic rendition explaining how it relates to your research. The synopsis must be a part of the image file.

Judging Criteria

- Clarity and Visual Impact: Does the artistic rendition clearly communicate the essence of the research in an immediately understandable and visually engaging way?
- Creativity and Innovation: Does the student demonstrate imagination and original thought in rendering their research artistically? Is the approach novel and memorable?
- Information Design: Do the visual design choices and synopsis enhance understanding for the viewer? Do the color, layout, symbols, and other design choices aid in understanding rather than distract?
- Accuracy: Does the visualization accurately convey the key elements of the research without misrepresentation or oversimplification?
- Effort and Execution: Does the artwork highlight skill and mastery of artistic techniques used? Is the final piece neat, polished, and of high quality?

Example Judging Rubric

Scores: 1-10; 10 is high (excellent) and 1 is low (poor)

		Participant Name
Judge	Category	
1	Clarity and Visual Impact	
	Creativity and Innovation	
	Information Design	
	Accuracy	
	Effort and Execution	
2	Clarity and Visual Impact	
	Creativity and Innovation	
	Information Design	
	Accuracy	
	Effort and Execution	
3	Clarity and Visual Impact	
	Creativity and Innovation	
	Information Design	
	Accuracy	
	Effort and Execution	
Composite Score		

Op-Ed Challenge

The Op-Ed challenge is an academic research writing competition that challenges graduate students to present their research and its significance to a general audience via a concise opinion piece known as an op-ed.

Originally derived from its position opposite the editorial page in a newspaper, an op-ed is a 600-800 word column that conveys a clearly defined purpose and point of view and is written by an authoritative voice in the field. Op-ed writers use facts, statistics, anecdotes, and logic to support their expert opinions and inform and persuade the reader.

Rules
- Submissions must be sole-authored and written in Spring of 2024. Previously published work is not eligible.
- Submissions are limited to 600-800 words.
- Competitors may seek assistance with proofreading and editing, but the submissions must be the original work of the competitor. Submissions may be submitted to plagiarism-detection software.
- Citations are required.

Judging Criteria

The following criteria will guide the judges' decisions. Each criterion is equally weighted and has an emphasis on the audience.

Comprehension and content

- Did the op-ed provide an understanding of the background and significance of the topic being addressed?
- Did the op-ed clearly describe the impact and/or results of the research, including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the author consider the counterargument or alternate viewpoint? If so, did they respond to it effectively?
- Was the topic communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the op-ed include appropriate evidence (i.e., facts, statistics, and anecdotes) to support the author's opinion and inform or persuade the reader?
- Was the topic selected timely and relevant to the audience?

Engagement and writing

- Did the op-ed provoke the reader to think, want to know more, debate, and/or take action?
- Was the op-ed organized and logically sequenced (e.g., introduction thesis statement, main body, posit counterargument, conclusion)?
- Did the author convey their authority appropriately?
- Did the author write with a clear voice, suitable word choice, and appropriate tone?
- Was the op-ed free from grammatical mistakes or typographical errors?
- Was the headline eye-catching, interesting, and appropriate?

Example Judging Rubric

Scores: 1-10; 10 is high (excellent) and 1 is low (poor)

			Participant Name
Judge	Category		
1	Comprehension and Content		
	Engagement and Writing		
2	Comprehension and Content		
	Engagement and Writing		
3	Comprehension and Content		
	Engagement and Writing		
4	Comprehension and Content		
	Engagement and Writing		
Composite Score			

See [here](#) for more guidance on how to write an Op-Ed. More examples of opinion articles are available at the New Yorker, New York Times Opinion/Guest Column.