



# STUDENT CONTEST GUIDELINES

\*Thank you to *land* journal for sponsoring the student contest awards\*



**ELIGIBILITY:** 1. Any BS/MS/PhD student who is participating and registered for ISTRO meeting is eligible to compete in the contest. Awards of \$200, \$100, and \$75 will be presented to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners, respectively, in each section of the Poster/ Oral Contest. When there is a tie for 1st place, there will be no 2nd place winner. When there is a tie for 2nd place, no 3rd place award will be given. All poster/ oral will be judged by 2-3 judges. You will likely not know when you are being judged.

## CRITERIA

1. A clear and technically competent abstract should be provided. The abstract should provide all pertinent information with respect to the research project. Abstract formatting should not be judged given that the ISTRO electronic submission abstract submission system does not put all abstracts into a standard format.
2. Appearance and flow refers to the physical development of the poster and oral presentation. This includes the organization and pattern of the presentation and effective use of text, figures, and pictures to convey information in an easily understandable manner. The use of creative “art work”, illustrations, color balance, and general organizational layout of the presentation should be a consideration in the category. Proper grammar, sentence structure, spelling, and use of terminology should be considered.
3. The Introduction section of the oral/poster should provide an adequate introduction to the problem as well as provide a thorough, yet concise review of relevant previous research. Contestants should clearly justify reasons for conducting the research and then state objectives. Material should be presented in a clear and interesting manner that will make the audience want to learn more. Originality includes scientific merit and the contribution of the research to Agricultural Science.
4. Materials and Methods should clearly describe how the research was conducted. All pertinent information with respect to how experiments were conducted should be

included. A description of the experimental design utilized should be included as well as statistical analysis of the data. Materials and Methods should be brief but descriptive enough for the audience to understand and evaluate the overall approach used to address the stated objective(s).

5. Results and Discussion are an essential part of any research paper. It is important that the Results and Discussion be supported by the data and interpretation of the data is logical. Findings should be related to other work if available. References should be made to graphs, tables, figures etc. as necessary in the Results and Discussion section.

6. Conclusions should be clear, concise, and easy to follow. In addition, Conclusions must be supported by results. Conclusions should address stated objectives and/or hypothesis.

7. Future Research needs should be included that provide ideas that may result in a greater understanding of the subject. Future Research should address areas of study that are currently lacking data and/or require a greater understanding of the subject matter to determine scientifically sound solutions to the problem at hand.

8. Student Interaction is a vital portion of the presentation process. Students should be able to intelligently discuss all aspects of the material they are presenting. In addition, students should present themselves appropriately given that the ISTRO is a professional, scientific society. If judges are unable to interact with all students in the contest, no points should be awarded to any student that a judge is assigned to in order to not give one student an advantage over another in terms of scoring.

For more details and questions, contact:

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Example of scoring sheets are provided below.



# 2024 Oral presentation score sheet

**Presenter:**

**University:**

**Title:**

Score each criteria in both categories from strong (15) to weak (5) using the scale below.

## CATEGORY 1: SCIENTIFIC MERIT

	Did the presentation provide a brief background and clearly state the objectives (or hypothesis)? (15 points)
	Did the research follow the appropriate methodology and utilize robust statistical analysis (if applicable)? (15 points)
	Were the results, conclusion/ impact/outcomes, and future goals communicated clearly without using too much jargon? (15 points)
	Did the presenter use images, tables, graphs, or flowcharts to interpret the results clearly? (15 points)

## CATEGORY 2: MATERIAL DELIVERY

	Did the presenter deliver the material with confidence? Was there sufficient eye contact and good use of voice? (15 points)
	Did the presenter used good font size, color combination and organization (15 points)
	Did the presenter complete his talk on time, and provided enough time for questions? (10 points)

**TOTAL SCORE** (max points = 100)

**Category 1 + Category 2 =**

**RANK =**



# Judges Score Sheet – Poster Contest

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Poster Number: \_\_\_\_\_

University: \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Absent
<b>Abstract Quality (5 Points Total)</b>	5	4	3	2	0
<b>Appearance and Flow (25 Points Total)</b>					
Overall appearance/Organization	5	3	1	0	--
Color is balanced	5	3	1	0	--
Print/font easy to read from a distance	5	3	1	0	--
Correct spelling and terminology	5	3	1	0	--
Competition quality graphs, figures, etc.	5	4	3	2	0

**Total Points:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Introduction (15 Points Total)**

Introduction to topic/problem	5	4	3	2	0
Concise background information	5	4	3	2	0
Clearly stated objectives and/or hypothesis	5	4	3	2	0

**Total Points:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials and Methods (15 Points Total)**

Appropriate methodology to address problem	5	4	3	2	0
Concise explanation of experimental procedures	5	4	3	2	0
Appropriate statistical procedures utilized (should include experimental design and analysis techniques)	5	4	3	2	0

**Total Points** \_\_\_\_\_

**Results and Discussion (15 Points Total)**

Clear and concise presentation of results	5	4	3	2	0
Clear reference to images, tables, graphs, etc.	5	4	3	2	0
Data collected compared to previous research	5	4	3	2	0

**Total Points:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion and future research (20 total)**

Conclusions clearly support or refute objectives and/or hypothesis	5	4	3	2	0
Clearly defined goals for future research	5	4	3	2	0

**Total points:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Interaction (15 Points Total)**

Ability to answer questions in a correct, concise manner	5	4	3	2	0
Enthusiasm/professionalism	5	4	3	2	0
Professional attitude	5	4	3	2	0

**Total Points:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Score:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rank:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments (Make additional comments on back if needed)** \_\_\_\_\_