Oregon Junior Science & Humanities Symposium - Research Report Guidelines

A. General Report Requirements

a. The research report must be written by the student. To ensure fairness, the reports are evaluated without reference to any personal information about the students.
b. Absolutely no student names, reference to gender, high schools, school officials, advisors, mentors, affiliated research organizations, acknowledgements, or any other identifying information of the entrants are to appear anywhere in the report.
c. Any piece of information that is not your own or common knowledge must be properly cited.
d. All claims of novelty and of substantial significance must be documented. If you chose to use superlatives such as "never before discovered," "state of the art," "best study to date," or something similar, you must provide extensive detail to support these statements.

Format Requirements

a. All writing must be in English.
b. The report must not exceed 20 pages.
c. Pages must have 1 inch margins and be numbered at the bottom center.
d. The abstract and references must be single spaced and 12-point Times New Roman.
e. The text in the body of the paper must be 12-point Times New Roman font and double-spaced.
f. Figures should be numbered in sequence and accompanied by their own caption. Figure title, captions, and references are single spaced in 10-point Times New Roman font. The figure and caption should be able to be interpreted without reading the text of the paper.
g. The entire document will be submitted as one PDF file.

Content Recommendations

a. Abstract (200 words)
    i. Provides a brief summary of the work.
b. Introduction (~2-3 pages)
    i. Start with a broad picture of the problem you have chosen to study and why it is interesting.
    ii. Provide a brief review of relevant scientific literature citing all sources.
    iii. Describe what information is missing and how you will address the gap in the knowledge.
    iv. Describe the specific problem to be solved or hypothesis to be tested.
c. Methods (2-5 pages)
    i. Describe how you performed your work with enough detail that someone trained in your field could replicate it.
    ii. Write in a format commonly used in publication in your field.
    iii. If you were aided in anyway, explain your role and the role of others. For example, acknowledge others for running instrumentation by title, but do not use names.
    iv. Mention common procedures, but you do not need to describe them in detail. Provide references where procedures can be found and detail any modifications to the procedure.
d. Results (3-5 pages)
    i. Present your findings in sufficient detail that readers can understand the results obtained or can follow mathematical proofs.
    ii. Present all experiments, controls, and statistical tests that show the results are reliable and statistically significant.
    iii. In theoretical work, present the findings against work that was tested, the extent to which it was tested, or both.
e. Discussion (3-5 pages)
    i. Provide an interpretation of the results and the implications of your findings.
    ii. Describe what makes your results unique and distinguish your results from other published literature.
    iii. Introduce any other findings that were unexpected.
    iv. Address any counter argument for your findings that may exist.
f. Conclusion (1-2 pages)
    i. Briefly recap what was learned from your research.
    ii. Determine what experiments could be performed in the future to refine your conclusions or address a new question that arose from your findings.
g. References
    i. APA formatted references and in-text citations are strongly encouraged.
    ii. If another format is used, be consistent.
    iii. Failure to cite work will result in disqualification.