

## Darrel S. Metcalfe Student Contest

### Purpose:

Students will practice their written communication skills and have their paper read in a manner similar to the peer review process.

### Awards and Recognition:

Authors of the top three entries will receive one-year subscriptions to the Natural Sciences Education journal and cash awards of \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place, and \$200 for third place. The results of this year's contest will be announced and the awards will be presented to the winners at the SASES student awards program held during the Annual Meetings.

### Eligibility:

All undergraduate students who are either members of an active local SASES chapter or individual members of ASA, CSSA, or SSSA are eligible to enter the contest. The paper must be completed prior to graduation of the author, though it may be submitted in fall semester and held for the contest the following spring.

### Rules/Procedures:

1. An institution must hold a local elimination contest if manuscripts submitted locally exceed three (3). An institution may submit a maximum of three (3) manuscripts to the Contest Committee, or 20 percent of the locally submitted manuscripts, whichever number is larger; however, in no case can the total number of manuscripts submitted by any one institution exceed five (5). All manuscripts submitted should conform to requirements stated in the Official Rules and Certification Sheets. The total number of manuscripts entered in the local elimination contest will count toward the score in the National Chapter contest and should be noted on the Certification Sheet for faculty advisors.
2. Two Certification Sheets must be submitted with each manuscript. One form will be completed by the student and sent by fax or mail to the Contest Faculty Chair, and the other form will be completed by the faculty sponsor and sent by fax, mail or scanned PDF to the Contest Faculty Chair. The sponsor will be a member of the ASA, CSSA, or SSSA and can be an academic advisor, a club advisor, or a teacher in a class. The Certification Sheet for students includes a checklist to help students avoid disqualification of their entries. Papers that qualify for publication will be returned to the chair of the university department for approval before submission for technical review and consideration for publication.
4. Each student is encouraged to consult faculty members for possible subjects, use of the library, helpful hints on writing, where to obtain images and artwork, and so forth. Students need not take their own photographs or make their own finished drawings. Assistance may be obtained from someone else provided they do not give editorial help.

**2015 Deadline**

**September 30, 2015**

[www.acsmeetings.org/program/undergraduates](http://www.acsmeetings.org/program/undergraduates)

The faculty sponsor is responsible for reviewing the manuscript twice. The first review should be of a completed draft and may include comments and suggested revisions but may not include any actual writing. The second review is to be completed just before the signing of the certification sheet. This means the manuscript is completed and ready for competition as far as the student author is concerned. Consequently, the faculty sponsor is simply to read the manuscript without comment and then immediately sign the certification sheet. At this point the manuscript should be submitted to the contest.

5. Papers will be rated, according to the Official Score Card, by six faculty members and the committee chair (Contest Faculty Chair) of the Darrel S. Metcalfe Student Manuscript Committee. A sample of the official score card is enclosed.
6. The literary style of the paper will depend upon the format chosen (original research report, term paper, or popular magazine article). The technical style must be that of the Publications Handbook and Style Manual, specifically that of Natural Sciences Education. Authors must be sure citations in the text and references follow this style. If you are unsure about style, consult a faculty member or other advisor.
7. Each paper must be an original effort by one author. General worth is important. Each author is encouraged to select an appropriate subject and title, but is encouraged to consult with others to find out what might make a good subject.
8. Papers must be double spaced, and a maximum length of eight (8) pages of text. Margins must be a minimum of 2.5 cm (1 inch) on all sides, and 12-point type should be used. Page numbers may be inserted in the margins (upper right corner or middle of bottom of the page). Title pages, tables, illustrations, captions, and list of references are not counted as text and should be on separate pages. The type of paper and the audience you are addressing must be noted on the title page (e.g., "scientific paper with audience of researchers, popular press article with audience of producers and county agents.") Add any other pertinent information in this footnote. For example, "The research reported in this paper was part of a larger project, and data may be used again in reporting the results of that paper."
9. Any figures, tables, photographs, or illustrations must also be sharp-contrast, but may be color images.
10. A paper will be disqualified if it fails to follow the Official Contest Rules or if it's submitted by a student who is not a member of ASA, CSSA, or SSSA.

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# Darrel S. Metcalfe Student Contest—2

## Submission:

The Darrel S. Metcalfe Student Manuscript Contest will accept manuscripts written in the following formats.

1. A research report on an experiment that you have done.
2. A “term paper” or review of other sources (literature) plus your own opinions on a subject.
3. A paper aimed at publication in a popular magazine.
4. Some creative version or combination of the above.

**Manuscripts should be submitted online by the deadline at:**

[www.agronomy.org/awards](http://www.agronomy.org/awards) under “Metcalfe Manuscript Contest”.

## Judging:

### 1. General Worth 10

Justification of the topic to its intended audience.

### 2. Content 30

Accuracy (10) Quality (10) Conclusions (10)

### 3. Readability 25

Clarity (10) Spelling and Punctuation (5) Sentence Structure (5)  
Paragraph Structure (5)

### 4. Organization 15 (25)\*

Material should be presented in a logical and concise order that is easy for readers to follow.

### 5. Figures, Tables, Images, or Illustrations 10(0)\*

Quality, appropriateness for the paper with meaningful captions.

### 6. Identification of Sources 5

Statements of facts and use of data from other sources should be acknowledged by naming or referencing the sources.

### 7. Neatness 5

General overall appearance of the paper.

**Total = 100**

\*If images and/or illustrations are not used, the 10 points will be applied to Organization.

## Contact:

### Contest Chair

Dr. Julie Howe, Auburn University, [jhowe@auburn.edu](mailto:jhowe@auburn.edu)

### ASA • CSSA • SSSA Contact:

Emily Fuger

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