

Student Paper Competition Rubric
SWAAG/AGX Annual Meeting, 6-8 October 2024, San Marcos, TX
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Evaluation Criterion	Outstanding (4)	Competent (3)	Adequate (2)	Insufficient (1)	Not Evident (0)
Introduction, including problem statement	Clearly articulates the problem with a compelling introduction.	States the problem clearly, but lacks depth.	Problem is identified, but the intro is vague or lacks focus.	Problem statement is unclear or underdeveloped.	No clear introduction or problem statement.
Research objectives / questions / hypotheses	Specific, well-defined, and align with the problem.	Clear but may lack specificity.	Present but poorly articulated or too broad.	Vague or not aligned with the problem.	Unclear or not present.
Research methods	Well explained, appropriate, and executed.	Explained and appropriate, but may lack detail.	Present but lack clarity or completeness.	Inadequately described or inappropriate.	No clear description of methods.
Results	Clearly presented and well-analyzed.	Presented but may lack depth or clarity.	Present but poorly presented or under-analyzed.	Incomplete or poorly analyzed.	No results are presented.
Discussion and conclusion	Discussion is insightful, and conclusions are well-supported by data.	Discussion and conclusions are logical but may lack depth.	Discussion and conclusions are present but underdeveloped.	Discussion and conclusions are weak or poorly supported.	No discussion or conclusion.
Engagement with supporting literature	Extensive and relevant literature is well-integrated.	Relevant literature is cited but may lack integration.	Literature is cited but either limited or poorly integrated.	Minimal engagement with literature.	No engagement with literature.
Originality	Introduces a novel research approach or significant new insight.	Thoughtful extension or new application of existing research.	Builds on existing research with minor new contributions.	Little innovation, largely reiterating existing research.	No new contribution, mirrors existing research closely.
Significance	Research is very significant and has strong implications.	The research is significant, but its impact may be limited.	The research is of moderate significance.	The research is of little significance or relevance.	The research has no clear significance.
Delivery (voice, tone, body language, eye contact, language, reference to notes; enthusiasm)	Crystal clear, confident, excellent posture, direct eye contact, varied volume and inflection to maintain interest, no notes, facial	Clear, relaxed, confident, mostly good posture, frequent eye contact, minimal note use, satisfactory variation in tone, facial	Generally clear, some confidence, uneven posture and eye contact, relies on notes, occasional monotone delivery, facial expressions, and	Not always clear, hesitant, slouches, minimal eye contact, heavy use of notes, monotone delivery, attempts at expression seem	Unclear, slouched, no eye contact, reads from notes, poor word usage, monotone, minimal facial expressions, and body language

	expressions, and body language strongly engage the audience.	expressions, and body language sometimes build interest.	body language seem somewhat forced but attempt engagement.	fake, limited engagement.	fail to generate interest.
Content	Exceptionally organized, focused, deep knowledge, and reflection. Clear purpose, relevant examples, strong evidence, and outstanding preparation.	Well-organized, clear focus, proficient knowledge, good reflection. Purpose is clear, mostly relevant examples, and conclusions are well-supported by evidence.	Organized with general focus and knowledge, some reflection. Purpose is somewhat clear, some examples support the topic, adequately prepared.	Loose organization and focus, limited knowledge, minimal reflection. Weak purpose, minimal evidence to support conclusions, minimal preparation.	Disorganized, unfocused, little knowledge, and no reflection. Purpose unclear, no relevant support for conclusions, no evidence of preparation.
Use of visual aids (quality and quantity)	Exceptional; clarified and reinforced the presentation, easily readable, error-free, not distracting.	Effective; mostly clarified and reinforced materials; easily readable; minor errors or distracting.	Adequate; clarified materials some of the time; confusing and distracting some of the time.	Minimal; either lacking or often confusing and distracting from main points; limited legibility; errors.	Little/none; inappropriate, confusing, illegible, distractive, flawed, or not present at all.
Audience awareness and response	Significantly increases audience knowledge, convinces fully, leaves many new ideas, and holds attention throughout with creative engagement.	I Increases knowledge, convinces most points, leaves some new ideas, and holds attention most of the time with interesting elements.	Raises knowledge on most points, clear point of view but incomplete support, holds attention most of the time with occasional creativity.	Raises knowledge on some points, point of view lacks development, audience left with vague ideas, minimal imagination and engagement.	Fails to increase knowledge, does not convince, leaves no new ideas, audience bored and disengaged.
Responses to questions	Answers questions with authority and confidence.	Relevant and concise answers.	Adequate responses.	Brief responses, questions not fully addressed.	Inadequate, awkward, or inappropriate responses.
Time management	15 minutes	± 1 minute	± 2 minutes	± 3 minutes	± 4 minutes
Overall presentation (quality, appearance, attitude)	Exceptional quality; professional attire; displays exceptionally positive and engaged attitude.	High quality; professional attire; consistently positive and engaged.	Good quality, casual attire; generally positive and professional attitude.	Fair quality, casual attire; attitude lacks engagement or clarity.	Poor quality; less-than casual attire – lacks neatness; displays disinterest or negative attitude.
Total	60	45	30	15	0

Best Applied Geography Research Paper Award Bonus Questions

1. This research uses geographical knowledge, methods, and techniques to address contemporary, real-world problems.

Strongly agree
(5)

Agree
(4)

Neutral
(3)

Disagree
(2)

Strongly disagree
(1)

2. Of the presentations I have seen, this research is the most deserving of the Applied Geography Student Award.

Strongly agree
(5)

Agree
(4)

Neutral
(3)

Disagree
(2)

Strongly disagree
(1)