

Student Paper and Poster Contest Criteria

The Student Paper and Poster contest at the Western Society of Weed Science Annual Meeting offers students an opportunity to improve their presentation skills and increase their visibility within the Society. The top students in each division of the contest will be recognized with a plaque and receive a cash award to honor their achievement.

All graduate students are encouraged to enter one paper and/or one poster in the contest. Undergraduate students may enter one poster in the contest. Other papers or posters may be submitted in the project sessions outside the context of the contest. Information presented in the WSWS Student Paper and Poster Contest is to be original and unique. If a topic has been used by the author in another presentation, additional data must be included to constitute a unique presentation.

Paper Contest*	Points	Criteria
Abstract	10	Format, grammar, and content
Introductions	10	Rational, hypothesis, and objectives
Methods	15	Experimental design, treatments, measurements, and statistical analysis
Results and Discussion	25	Results, interpretation, conclusions, future directions, and implications
Visual Aids	15	Easily read; uncluttered; in focus; balance to text, tables, figures, and photographs
Oration	20	Voice, confidence, enthusiasm, enunciations, and response to questions
Time	5	Allowed 2 to 4 minutes for questions (all-or-nothing points)
Total	100	

*Previous first place winners in the paper contest are ineligible for the paper contest, but may enter the poster contest.

Poster Contest*	Points	Criteria
Abstract	10	Format, grammar, and content
Content and Mechanics	15	Grammar, style, and quantity of information
Development	20	Rationale, hypothesis, objectives, organization, and methods
Analysis of Results	20	Results, interpretation, conclusions, future directions, and implications
Appearance	20	Easily read, uncluttered, well-designed tables and figures, clear and relevant photographs, and balanced layout
Oration	10	Voice, confidence, enthusiasm, enunciations, and response to questions
Physical Presence	5	Interaction with audience and mannerisms
Total	100	

*Previous first place winners in the poster contest are ineligible for the poster contest, but may enter the paper contest.

The student paper and posters have traditionally set the standard for excellence at WSWS annual meetings. Do your part to maintain these high standards by preparing exceptional scientific papers and posters for this year's meeting.