



National Association of African American Studies
National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies
National Association of Native American Studies
International Association of Asian Studies

National Conference
Crowne Plaza Executive Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
February 11-16, 2013

National Annual Research Competition
2012-2013 Guidelines

The national organization sponsors an annual research competition that is open to students who study in all fields and disciplines. There are two research classes: (1) undergraduate and (2) graduate students. The research review committee awards identical prizes in both classes. They include:

- One \$1,000 first place prize
- Two \$500 second place prizes
- Five \$200 third place prizes

In addition, all participants are eligible to have their research paper published in the Annual National Student Monograph Series. All participants are recognized at the awards luncheon on Saturday, February 16, 2013.

Eligibility:

- Student applicants must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program.
- A research abstract not to exceed two (2) pages must be submitted by November 9, 2012.
- Student participants must attend the conference on February 14-16, 2013. Each participant is scheduled for a twenty-five (25) minute oral or poster presentation. The students may select the category that best fits the research presentation.
- Bibliographical essays do not qualify as research.
- Group submissions are allowed; however, please designate one contact person for the group.
- One (1) entry per person or group.
- Participants must register for the February 11-16, 2013 national conference. However, participants are only expected to be in attendance February 14-16, 2013. All student participants are requested to attend the Saturday (2/16/13) awards luncheon. Award winners must be in attendance at the luncheon.

Judging Criteria:

- Thorough use of available resources.
- Variety and appropriateness of sources.
- Quality of the research process description.

Paper Length:

- Papers must be a minimum of five (5) pages for undergraduate submissions and a minimum of ten (10) pages for graduate/professional submissions.

Submittal Date:

- Papers must be submitted electronically by January 31, 2013.

Bibliography:

- The research paper must include a bibliography of at least ten (10) or more citations and be written in a standard bibliographic format (MLA, APA, etc.).

Deadlines and Schedule of Activities:

- Research abstract not to exceed two (2) pages is due by November 9, 2012.
- Student registration fee (\$150.00) for the February 11-16, 2013 conference is due January 25, 2013.
- Completed research paper is due January 31, 2013.
- Judges review is scheduled for completion by February 12, 2013.
- Student is scheduled for a twenty-five (25) minute oral or poster presentation on either February 14 or 15, 2013.
- All student participants are requested to attend the awards luncheon on Saturday, February 16, 2013.
- Award winners must be in attendance at the awards luncheon on Saturday, February 16, 2013.
- Students desirous of having their research published in the National Student Monograph Series must complete the author's publication form during the national conference.

Entry Form:

- A completed entry form must accompany the abstract (due 11/9/12).

Judges:

- Will be a panel of professional and academic scholars who represent diverse fields and disciplines.

Announcement of Winners:

- Will be announced Friday evening, February 15, 2013.

Award Ceremony:

- Prizes will be presented to the winners at the February 16, 2013 luncheon.

Student Recognition:

- All student participants will be recognized at the luncheon with a framed certificate. And, all students have the option of having the research published in the National Student Research Monograph (CD) Series.

RECOMMENDED OUTLINE FOR RESEARCH PAPERS:

- The title page must include the title, the student's name, the student's school, and advisor's name;
- Acknowledgement of major assistance received;
- Table of contents;
- If applicable, statement that "research involving non-human vertebrates or human subjects was conducted under the supervision of an experienced teacher or researcher and followed state and federal regulatory guidance applicable to the human and ethical conduct of such research";
- Introduction;
- Materials and methods;
- Results (data or findings);
- Discussion and conclusions;
- References, or literature cited; and
- Appendices (if applicable)

SECTIONS FOR A TYPICAL RESEARCH PAPER:

This information should merely serve as a guide. Some forms/types of research may utilize a different format.

Title:	A hint of what's to come. Be brief and informative. The title page must include the title, the student's name, the student's school, category (such as biochemistry, computer sciences, health, fine arts, education, physics & astronomy, etc.), type of paper (investigative, etc.), and advisor's name.
Abstract:	A description of the whole project in 250 words or less. It tells the reader about your topic and what you think is important. (1-2 paragraphs)
Introduction:	A discussion of what's been done before and what you plan to do (question or problem) including what is the source of your idea for your project - how did you come up with your idea(s)? (1-4 paragraphs).
Review of Literature:	A more in-depth review of other peoples' work, documented by library sources. (optional, depending on details in the Introduction)
Statement of Purpose:	This is a statement of the purpose of the study/experiment, including clear objectives. What are the applications of this work? Why is this study important? Be sure that you show recognition of the implications or importance of this work.
Hypothesis:	Clearly state your hypothesis, based on your background research and knowledge.
Materials and Methods:	A detailed description of the experiments and the design of the experiments, if applicable. What were your variables and controls? Did you develop any new/novel techniques? Include any details which are important to your experiment. Use complete sentences. (1-5 paragraphs, if applicable)
Results:	An organized summary of your data. Provides your readers with proof of your work. (3-10 paragraphs) Tables, graphs, charts, and photographs are good means to communicate your results.
Discussion of Results:	This section is where you explain how you interpreted your data. Discuss use of statistics and sources of error. (1-5 paragraphs) - Are your results valid? Accurate? Precise?
Conclusion:	Your conclusion must flow from your results and relate to your hypothesis (whether or not the hypothesis was supported).
Future Work:	This would include predictions, ideas about refining your study or increasing precision or accuracy, new questions raised, or what the next logical step would be if you continued this work.
References:	A resource for readers. Materials you read or people you talked with while preparing for, designing, and writing about your research.
Appendices:	A place for extra information. Whatever is attached should be short and relevant to your work. Graphs or charts that did not fit in your paper may be in the appendices.



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Student Applicant Cover Page

Please complete and attach this page to the research abstract due by November 9, 2012.

Title of Research Project: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Group Members (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Street

City

State

Zip

Telephone(s): _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Advisor's Name _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____