

Graduate Student Paper Competition Guidelines
Western Section, American Society of Animal Science (WSASAS)
Guidelines and Score Sheet

Purpose: To provide graduate students with opportunities to develop and advance their abilities to communicate scientific data in oral and written formats.

Eligibility and Requirements: Graduate students that wish to compete in the Graduate Student Paper Competition MUST be current members of WSASAS; please verify membership BEFORE submitting a paper. Graduate students enrolled in institutions outside the WSASAS must pay an additional \$10 fee to add a WSASAS membership to their current ASAS membership. Membership forms require the signature of an advisor to verify the student's enrollment. Please direct questions concerning membership status to ASAS headquarters (asas@asas.org).

Students may compete in the WSASAS Graduate Student Paper Competition as many times as they desire during their M.S. and Ph.D. programs. If a student places first, they are ineligible to compete in future competition events.

Contestants are encouraged to attend the WSASAS Awards Banquet. WSASAS will cover banquet fees for Graduate Student Paper Competition contestants.

Deadlines: Contestants MUST submit an abstract and proceedings paper by the due date for general meeting abstracts and proceedings. The deadlines are not different for the Graduate Student Paper Competition than the general meeting deadlines, and no exceptions will be granted. See the WSASAS Meeting website for information on due dates and submission guidelines.

All publication charges required for submission of a proceedings paper to the WSASAS apply for the Graduate Student Paper Competition. Please read and adhere to the WSASAS Proceedings Instruction to Authors, which is available on the WSASAS Meeting and Abstract Submission websites.

Competition Process: The competition consists of two graded categories, written (proceedings) and oral. Judges will individually score the proceedings papers and oral presentations. Following the conclusion of the presentations, the judges will meet and compile scores for both criteria and vote on the first, second, and third places. Winners will be announced at the WSASAS Awards Banquet.

Instructions, Sample Proceedings, and Score Sheets:

Specific instructions for preparation of competition papers are described in the WSASAS Proceedings Instructions to Authors. Oral presentations must follow the general format for scientific presentations. All presentation instructions are available on the WSASAS Meeting and Submission websites.

A Sample WSASAS Proceedings paper is available on the WSASAS Meeting website. The sample was the first-place paper from 2013. Written and oral score sheets are provided on the next page of this document. Contestants are encouraged to thoroughly read the Sample Proceedings and score sheets before preparing proceedings papers and oral presentations.

WSASAS Graduate Student Paper Competition Score Sheet – Written Presentation

Written Presentation Presenter _____

1. WSASAS Proceedings Format(6 points) _____

- 1.1. Abstract length (\leq 400 words).
- 1.2. Introduction length (\leq 2,000 characters and spaces).
- 1.3. Implications length (\leq 1,000 characters and spaces).
- 1.4. Use of references minimized to those most recent and pertinent (\leq 3 per concept).
- 1.5. JAS standard abbreviations used whenever possible.
- 1.6. Non-standard abbreviations defined and used according to JAS style and form guidelines.
- 1.7. Literature citations follow JAS style and format guidelines.
- 1.8. Manuscript length (\leq 4 pages; 1 additional page may be added for tables and figures).

2. Introduction(7 points) _____

- 2.1. Research justified relative to previous work (i.e., rationale)
- 2.2. Included research objective(s).
- 2.3. Clearly stated or demonstrated hypothesis(s).
- 2.4. Avoided extensive review of literature.

3. Materials and Methods(9 points) _____

Explicitly described or cited recognized authoritative source(s) for the following:

- 3.1. Biological and analytical procedures.
- 3.2. Statistical procedures (included explicit representation of the statistical model and associated measures of variability and(or) confidence).
- 3.3. Deviations from standard analytical and statistical procedures.

4. Results and Discussion (can be separate or combined)(12 points) _____

- 4.1. Tables and figures contained sufficient information to interpret results.
- 4.2. Key points related to data in tables and figures were explained without excessive repetition.
- 4.3. Interpreted results clearly in terms of underlying mechanisms.
- 4.4. Integrated pertinent results from the literature.
- 4.5. Included sufficient evidence in support of or in contrast to the research hypothesis(s) and allowed for the reader to infer a conclusion(s).
- 4.6. Avoided unwarranted extrapolation of results.

5. Implications(6 points) _____

Explained without abbreviations, acronyms, or citations, what the results imply for animal production and(or)biology.

6. Scientific Merit(10 points) _____

The merit of the research must be evaluated on the basis of its rationale, impact on animal production, and(or) the advancement of important scientific principles.

Written Score (maximum 50 points) _____

WSASAS Graduate Student Paper Competition Score Sheet – Oral Presentation

Oral Presentation Presenter _____

1. Delivery(10 points) _____

Included:

- 1.1. Good eye contact with audience.
- 1.2. Distinct voice.
- 1.3. Smooth presentation flow and style (e.g., well organized).
- 1.4. Focused attention towards important points during presentation.
- 1.5. Use of notes was minimized.

2. Presentation(15 points) _____

The presentation:

- 2.1. Followed the manuscript.
- 2.2. Included informative and complete sections:
 - 2.2.1. Introduction,
 - 2.2.2. Research objective(s),
 - 2.2.3. Hypotheses,
 - 2.2.4. Materials and Methods,
 - 2.2.5. Results and Discussion
 - 2.2.6. Conclusions or summary, and
 - 2.2.7. Implications.
- 2.3. Stimulated questions and discussion.
- 2.4. Was 10 to 12 minutes in length.

3. Visual Aids(10 points) _____

- 3.1. Was easily readable.
- 3.2. Made appropriate use of color and enhancements (e.g., animation).
- 3.3. Captured the attention of the audience.
- 3.4. Information on single slides was limited to 1 or 2 key points.
- 3.5. Maximized content without being verbose.

4. Knowledge of Subject Matter & Discussion of Research(15 points) _____

- 4.1. Conclusions and implications were communicated properly within the context of pertinent literature.
- 4.2. Appropriate emphasis was placed on key results.
- 4.3. Adequate explanation was given in support of experimental approach.
- 4.4. Data were interpreted correctly.
- 4.5. Limitations of the research were recognized.
- 4.6. Questions were answered concisely, accurately, and within the scope of the research and pertinent literature.
- 4.7. Potential for future research was identified and acknowledged.

Oral Score (maximum 50 points) _____