

The Society for Technical Communication

The Society for Technical Communication (STC) is the world's largest association dedicated to the technical communication professional. With over 20,000 members in 150 chapters around the world, STC promotes the technical communication profession by providing education, scholarships, competitions, conferences, seminars, community services, networking opportunities, and employment information.

STC members include writers, editors, web designers, information analysts, graphic artists, researchers, educators, publishers, and audio/video specialists. Their level of knowledge and experience ranges from college students to renowned experts.

The Orlando Chapter of STC consists of over 150 technical communicators pursuing their careers in private firms, government agencies, and academic institutions.

For more information about the Society for Technical Communication, contact STC Headquarters:

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or visit <http://www.stc.org> on the Web.



SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION



<http://www.stc-orlando.org/hscomp.htm>



Annual Central Florida

High School Technical Writing Competition

for Students in Grades 9-12

Sponsored by the
Orlando Chapter
of the
Society for Technical
Communication

The Competition

The Orlando Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication (STC) invites high school students to submit entries for the Central Florida High School Technical Writing Competition.

There is no entry fee for the competition. The chapter sponsors this contest to encourage the development of technical writing skills among students in grades 9 through 12. In addition, 8th grade students enrolled in classes that carry high school credit are eligible.

Note to teachers: Please limit entries to the best 10 per class.

What to Submit

To enter the competition, you must submit an original non-fiction report, essay, or expository article on a technical or scientific subject of your choosing. The paper may be written for a course, in conjunction with a science fair, or especially for the competition, with only one entry per student.

The paper should be objective and informative, conveying complete factual information for a specific purpose. It should explain a concept or process, or help the reader to form an opinion. It is vitally important that the paper's content match the writer's target audience.

The length of a non-research paper should be approximately five pages (including graphics, endnotes, and references), although it can slightly exceed this limit if necessary. The length of a research paper can be up to 30 pages.

Format Requirements

Entries must be in English, designed to print on 8 ½- by 11-inch paper. The preferred file format is PDF (Adobe Acrobat), where the fonts are embedded so that they can be reproduced on other computers.

If you do not have access to Acrobat at home or school, you may use the PDF file converter on our Web site at:
<http://www.stc-orlando.org/hscomp.htm>.

To ensure unbiased, objective judging, you must not show your name, school, or teacher on any page of your paper.

Submitting an Entry

**The submission deadline is January 15th.
Late entries will not be accepted.**

The competition does not accept paper entries by mail. You must use the online Competition Entry Form, available after November 15th, on the STC-Orlando web site at:
<http://www.stc-orlando.org/hscomp.htm>.

The entry form requires you to supply information about yourself, your school and paper. In addition, there are mandatory *Purpose of Paper* and *Intended Audience* sections that count toward 20% of the score.

Any questions regarding the competition or its guidelines should be submitted via e-mail to hscomp@stc-orlando.org.

Basis for Judging

A panel of professional writers, editors, and educators will judge the entries. Each entry will be numerically rated using established judging criteria.

The emphasis in the competition is more on clear and concise writing than on advanced scientific knowledge.

Judges will consider the overall quality of each entry, including the presence of a coherent thesis; proper organization, including effective use of headings and subheadings; correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation; effective use of graphics; and proper use and documentation of reference materials and sources.

All entrants will receive detailed constructive feedback from the judging.

Awards

The Chapter provides five levels of awards:

Distinguished	– \$250.00
Excellence	– \$150.00
Merit	– \$ 75.00
Achievement	– \$ 25.00
Honorable Mention	– Certificate

Awards are presented at the STC Orlando Chapter Awards Dinner in the Spring. Winners of the competition will also receive local recognition of their achievement. Winners and their teachers will be notified by mail before the awards ceremony.

The top papers go on to STC's International High School Technical Writing competition to be considered for potential additional awards.