

Professional Paper

Due Date: Paper must be received by March 1. Email your submission to ASCEConference2015@gmail.com

Overview

Established in 1939 in honor of the 67th President of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the contest provides an opportunity for alert young civil engineers to further their professional development and gain national attention.

Topic

"Should the Engineer of Record (who has sealed a set of plans) be held responsible, to any degree, for injury or death to builders or bystanders that occurs during the construction of his or her design?"

The following can be used to stimulate, but should in no way limit, the discussion:

An engineer's prime focus is safety of design, but safety concerns may sometimes be limited to the end-product users without additional care taken for the safety of the builders. While constructability is typically a factor in design, safety of individuals during the construction is usually considering a Contractor's Issue.

Recently, Engineers and Architects have been severely criticized for the "human costs" of building their projects, despite these designers having no influence during the construction stages. The incidence of human costs differs greatly, yet is often higher with the most innovative and cutting edge designs.

- Should an Engineer assume and be held accountable for the safety of construction of their design plans, despite having no control after placing his or her Seal? If so, to what degree?
- Does this responsibility change if no Contractor negligence has been proven?
- What are the ethical implications of holding or not holding Engineers accountable?
- How does the ASCE Code of Ethics address this topic?
- How have the courts handled these issues in case studies? Should there be changes to the laws?
- What is the appropriate ethical stance in regards to the concept of Prevention Through Design?



Rules

1. Papers are not to exceed 2,000 words in length, must be written by only one person, and should not have appeared in any publications other than in school or chapter publications. Reference citations of the papers should conform to official ASCE Journal Submission Guidelines, which can be found on the ASCE Publications website:

<http://www.asce.org/Audience/Authors,-Editors/Journals/Authors/Resources-for-Authors/>

2. Authors must be undergraduate students and ASCE Student Organization members and ASCE national student members, in good standing.
3. Entries must be received by March 1, 2015 11:59:59 PM. Send entries to ASCEconference2015@gmail.com. Late submission will not be accepted. Submitters will receive a response to confirm your email was received.
4. Each author will be expected to make a 5-minute oral presentation. After each presentation, judges will have a 5-minute session to ask questions.

Score

Half of the overall score will be based on the submitted paper and the other half will come from the presentation. (A scoring summary sheet can be found below.)

Selection

Winners will be selected by a panel constituted of at least three judges. Prizes for winners are as follows: **A prize of \$200 will be awarded to the submission that takes first place.**

Note: Submission for the ASCE Student Conference Paper Competition does not constitute an entry for the National Daniel W. Mead Student Contest. While the paper topic is the same – and the same paper may be submitted for both contests – they are two separate events and require two separate submissions. For a complete set of rules for the 2015 National Daniel W. Mead Student Contest, please visit <http://www.asce.org/studentorgs>.



SCORING SUMMARY SHEET

Author's Name: _____ Date: _____

ASCE Student Organization
Represented: _____

Paper Scoring Criteria	Score
1. Adherence to topic (10%)	/ 10
2. Presence of original ideas and research involved (10%)	/ 10
3. Command of subject matter (10%)	/ 10
4. Spelling and grammar / length (2000 word maximum) (5%)	/ 5
5. Overall clarity, organization, quality of paper and references (15%)	/ 15
Paper Sub-Total	/ 50

Presentation Scoring Criteria	Score
1. Degree to which presentation addressed and supported key concepts of written paper and theme of contest	/ 10
2. Ability to communicate key concepts from written paper and to convince audience of their importance	/ 25
3. Personal bearing (i.e. appearance, poise, eye contact)	/ 5
4. Delivery style (i.e. reading, memorized, conversational) / pronunciation and proper use of technical language and grammar / enthusiasm and voice projection	/ 5
5. Time (5 minutes +/- 5 seconds) (5%) (Beyond 5-second allowance: 0.05 point penalty per second difference from required 5 minutes, i.e. 5:20 or 4:40 = 1 point penalty)	/ 5
6. Errors in logic or facts (up to 10 points penalty)	() penalty
Presentation Sub-Total	/ 50
Paper Sub-Total	/ 50
Overall Score	/ 100

