

National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium

Oral Presentation Requirements 2024-2025

The National Junior Science & Humanities Symposium (JSHS) invites two individual student delegates from each regional symposium to present their research at the National JSHS Oral Competition. Presentations will be separated into categories of competition and awards will be given in each category.

These requirements are for National oral presenters only. If you are uncertain of your National Finalist status, please check your National Finalist confirmation email or contact your Regional Director. Be sure to read each requirement carefully.

Abstract

All National Finalists must submit a 250-word maximum abstract in Word format. The abstract should accurately convey the essential nature of the research conducted and the most significant conclusions reached. The abstract **must** include the hypothesis and any conclusions reached as a result of the research.

The format for the 250-word abstract includes 1-inch margins, single spaced, typed in 12-point font (Times New Roman). Abstracts must be adequate in length but not exceed these specifications. The header preceding the abstract body must include:

1. Title of the research;
2. Authors name(s);
3. High school, high school city, high school state;
4. Name of teacher/mentor/sponsor and his or her organization. Precede the individual's name with a subheading (i.e. teacher, mentor, sponsor);
5. Include one line of space between the heading and the abstract body.
6. Abstract documents must be labeled as "Firstname Lastname Abstract".

Abstracts from all NJSHS delegates will be published in the [2025 National JSHS Abstract Catalog](#). Please carefully proofread your submission since abstracts will not be proofread or edited. You do not need to print your abstract.

Research Paper

- The paper should be a minimum of 5-6 pages and a maximum of 40 pages, including appendices and references.
- Submitted papers must be double spaced and in APA Style student format. For help with APA, see the [APA Guide](#) and [Purdue OWL](#). Both sites also have sample papers as examples.
- Photography, graphs, tables, diagrams, charts, or other graphic representation presented in the paper must be simply presented and comply with the maximum file size limit of 1.8 Mb.
- A maximum size limit for the electronic research paper is 1.8 Mb.



- A recommended outline for the research paper includes:
 - a title page, or cover page stating the student’s name, school address, and title of the research
 - acknowledgement of major assistance received,
 - as 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 humane and ethical conduct of such research”
 - introduction
 - materials and methods,
 - results (data or findings)
 - discussion and conclusions,
 - references, or literature cited
 - appendices (if necessary, but please keep in mind that the introduction is far more valuable in the judging process than appendices of raw data)

Statement of Outside Assistance

All JSHS applicants prepare and submit a *Statement of Outside Assistance Form* as a part of their registration. This form requires students to report on their contributions to the research investigation. National Finalists must submit the same completed *Statement of Outside Assistance Form* that was included with their regional registration. *Statements of Outside Assistance Form* must be in PDF format and labeled as “Firstname Lastname SOA”. Students should contact the JSHS staff immediately if they have not previously submitted the JSHS *Statement of Outside Assistance Form*.

Oral Presentation Requirements

Oral Presentation Session Timing

- The research presentation may **not exceed 12 minutes**, followed by a maximum 6-minute question period. A session moderator will aid the student speaker in maintaining this schedule and in fielding questions from the judges.
- The procedure for maintaining the time includes a 10-minute signal for the student, and finally a 12-minute signal. At the 12-minute point, the student speaker must stop the presentation even if he or she has not finished.
- Following the presentation, the session moderator will ask for judges’ questions. Questions from the audience are not permitted.

Use of Audio-Visuals—Available Equipment

- Available audio-visual equipment in each session at NJSHS includes: 1) LCD projector, 2) projection screen, and 3) a laser pointer.
- PC-based computers will be in each session room configured with Microsoft PowerPoint and Adobe Acrobat.
- Equipment operators will not be available in each session. Students should number their slides to aid in referring back to specific slides during the question-and-answer session.

Presentation Guidelines

Student presenters are reminded to:

- Label their presentation “FirstNameLastNamePresentation”
- The presentation must be in the form of Microsoft PPT or Adobe PDF document.
- Save the presentation to an IBM-compatible thumb drive and plug into available PC-based equipment with that thumb drive.
- Bring back-up media.
- Embed any video, or other presentation developed through other software, into PowerPoint. Any video used in presentations must be sent to the JSHS National Office for approval prior to the competition. If using video, students must comply with the following ground rules:
 - The video component cannot make up more than one (1) minute of the presentation and must be directly relevant to the project.
 - No audio or background music is permitted other than sounds that are an integral part of the research. Recorded or mechanically produced narration is not permitted. Narration must come from the speaker.
 - Videos (and audio, if any) may be used only for those aspects of the presentation that cannot adequately be presented in a slide. Video material presented must be an integral part of the research and should not be a substitute for presentation of data. Videos must not be used for presentation of common procedures, illustrating equipment or showing laboratory facilities. Videos should illustrate work that was done and should not be used for stimulation or aesthetic value.
- Students may not bring handouts or other materials to be given to the judges.
- Students may not bring prototypes or other props.
- QR Codes or links leading to information not included in the slides are not permitted.

Judging Process

Judging criteria used by the judges follows below. Each judge is instructed to rank presentations based on the below criteria. The scores are tallied for each presenter and used as the basis for discussion among judging team members.

- Statement and identification of research problem
- Scientific thought, creativity/innovation, appropriate duration
- Research or engineering design and procedures
- Logical conclusion relevant to the research problem. What was learned? Did student recognize contribution to the field?
- Skill in communicating results
- References stated

For any questions, contact the National JSHS office at admin@jshs.org or 703.312.9206