



Georgia Junior Science & Humanities Symposium

2025 HANDBOOK with RULES & GUIDELINES



**UNIVERSITY OF
 GEORGIA**
 Center for Continuing
 Education & Hotel

The Georgia Junior Science & Humanities Symposium is administered by the Office of Academic Special Programs at the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel

www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/gjshs

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About JSHS

Junior Science & Humanities Symposium (JSHS) is a Department of Defense sponsored program for high school students enrolled in grades 9-12 who engage in research investigations in the sciences, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). Students are invited to compete in an affiliated JSHS regional symposium and may win the opportunity to advance to the National JSHS.

The primary aims of JSHS are to promote original research and experimentation in STEM at the high school level, and to publicly recognize students for outstanding achievement. By involving talented students and their teachers in affiliated symposia, and by recognizing students' research endeavors through scholarships and other awards, JSHS aims to encourage continued interest and participation in the sciences and ultimately to widen the pool of trained scientific and engineering talent prepared to conduct research and development vital to our nation.

Program Sponsorship

The Junior Science & Humanities Symposium (JSHS) Program is a collaborative effort between the research offices of the U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force and Space Force, National Science Teaching Association, and leading research universities throughout the nation. The Department of Defense generously provides funding for the regional and national symposia and JSHS scholarships.

For more information about the partnerships that make JSHS possible, visit jshs.org/about-jshs/department-of-defense-sponsors.



Georgia JSHS

Georgia's affiliated regional JSHS program, the Georgia Junior Science & Humanities Symposium (GJSHS), is administered by the Office of Academic Special Programs at the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel, a unit of Public Service & Outreach.

Students selected to attend GJSHS are invited to participate in the three-day event on the University of Georgia campus in Athens. Georgia teachers are also selected to attend GJSHS as chaperones based on submitted applications. Lodging and meal expenses (with some exceptions) are covered for all students and teachers selected to attend. Students selected for GJSHS are expected to fully participate in all Symposium activities. All participants are responsible for travel to and from the Symposium, as well as one meal during the event.



JSHS Mission

- **Promote** research and experimentation in STEM at the high school level.
- **Recognize** the significance of research in human affairs, and the importance of humane and ethical principles in the application of research results.
- **Search out** talented youth and their teachers, recognize their accomplishments at symposia, and encourage their continued interest and participation in STEM.
- **Expand** the horizons of research-oriented students by exposing them to opportunities in the academic, industrial, and governmental communities.
- **Increase** the research and development capabilities of the future U.S. workforce.

Why Participate?

Students and teachers participating in regional and national symposia may...

- Gain self-confidence, not only through the experience of the research investigation, but also through networking with participants with similar interests.
- Participate in a forum honoring exceptional work and encouraging personal and academic growth.
- Participate in an academic STEM conference, take field trips, and have their work published.
- Have opportunities to tour laboratories, university campuses, and DoD facilities.
- Meet practicing researchers who offer a look beyond high school to opportunities in post-secondary education and academic and career development in STEM.
- Develop higher-order thinking skills and integrated learning across disciplines through the process of scientific inquiry, writing a scientific paper, and delivering a presentation - all skills that will benefit future post-secondary and graduate pursuits.

Eligibility

Competition Eligibility

The Georgia Junior Science & Humanities Symposium (GJSHS) invites high school students who have completed an original research investigation in the sciences, technology, engineering, or mathematics and who meet the eligibility requirements below to submit an application. For situations not addressed here, the [JSHS Core Rules of Competition](#) prevail.

- Students may compete in only **one** regional symposium.
- **Grade Level / School Type:** GJSHS is open to students in grades 9-12 who are enrolled in a public, private, or home school located in the state of Georgia.
- **Citizenship:** Students must be a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States or U.S. territory to participate in JSHS.
- **Continuation Projects:** Students may continue a research investigation; however, a study which merely adds data from a previous year's project is not considered a strong continuation project. If a continuation project is submitted, the student must discuss how the project was expanded (e.g., methodology, new variables), discuss any revisions in experimentation, and present new data.
- **Team Projects:** If a student is part of a larger group, a team leader should be selected to register and present the results of the group work. The research may not be presented by any other member of the team. All team members must meet JSHS eligibility. The judging criteria used to judge all GJSHS papers and presentations remains the same. The presentation should focus on the coordinated efforts of all team members and properly acknowledge the contributions of the team (students, mentors, and/or teachers). **If the project is selected for GJSHS, only the team leader will be invited to attend.** If an individual presenter from a group project is selected as a Regional finalist and is invited to present at the National JSHS, the same presenter must present at the National Symposium. Scholarships and other awards available at Regional and National Symposia are awarded to the presenter.
- **Attendance / Participation:** The date and time for all student presentations are determined by regional and national Symposia leadership. A student must be present for the assigned time(s) or risk disqualification. **Students must participate fully in all Symposium activities.**
- **Appropriateness:** Projects that are demonstrations, 'library' research, or informational projects are not appropriate for JSHS.

Scholarship Eligibility

- Qualifying students must be a citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) of the United States and be enrolled full-time in an accredited institution to be eligible for scholarship awards. All scholarship payments are made directly to the student's college of enrollment.
- **Team Projects:** Scholarships and other awards available at Regional and National Symposia are awarded only to the presenter.
- Total scholarship awards available through JSHS are capped at a maximum of \$30,000 per individual student winner.

Scholarship Conditions

Student scholarship recipients must meet the following:

- Demonstrate full-time enrollment as an undergraduate student at an accredited institution.
- Declare a major in a science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or related field.
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.
- Follow conditions and instructions listed at jshs.org/students/awards/#regional-awards for claiming a JSHS scholarship award.

For more information about JSHS scholarships, see jshs.org/students/awards/#regional-awards.

Application Process & Dates

Students are selected to attend the Georgia Junior Science & Humanities Symposium (GJSHS) after a preliminary evaluation of submitted abstracts and research papers. Based on the results of this review, **45-60** Georgia students in grades 9-12 will be selected to participate in the GJSHS event at the University of Georgia as either Presenters or Observers*.

- **PRESENTERS** participate in the oral presentation competition. GJSHS culminates with the selection of five presenters to win an expense-paid trip to the National JSHS. The top three finalists will be awarded scholarships. The top two finalists will have the opportunity to compete in the oral presentation competition at National JSHS, and the other three finalists will be invited to attend National JSHS as Observers and may be invited to enter the National JSHS poster competition.
- **OBSERVERS*** are invited to attend the symposium and present their research in a poster session.

* The number of Presenters and Observers may change from year to year, or the Observer component may be omitted, with all participants selected as Presenters.

All GJSHS applicants must follow the Rules & Guidelines beginning on page 9.

Selection Process:

- 1) Students submit application materials using the online application portal. **The portal will open on December 1 at www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/gjshs.**
- 2) As part of the online application, students upload a written **Abstract, Research Paper**, and **Statement of Outside Assistance** prepared in accordance with GJSHS Rules & Guidelines (pages 9-13).
- 3) Judges read and evaluate papers.
- 4) Based on these evaluations, Presenters (and Observers, if applicable) are selected; selections are announced on January 24 (date is approximate).
- 5) At the GJSHS event February 16-18, 2025, Presenters deliver a maximum 12 minute slide presentation of their research to a panel of judges and peers. Observers may participate in a poster session.
- 6) Based on the presentations, Presenters may be selected for awards and/or to advance to the National Junior Science & Humanities Symposium in April/May.

December 18, 2024

Georgia JSHS Application Deadline

The Abstract, Research Paper, and Statement of Outside Assistance must be submitted via the online application portal at www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/gjshs.

The application requires parental confirmation. Please allow ample time before the deadline (11:59 p.m.) for parent to complete confirmation and to resolve any technological/connectivity issues.

January 24, 2025 (approximate)

Announcement of Invited Presenters

List of students selected to attend the 2025 GJSHS to be posted at www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/gjshs.

February 16-18, 2025

Georgia JSHS

Held at the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel in Athens, GA

Tentative agenda:

Sunday, February 16

4:30 pm	Registration
5:45 pm	Dinner & Welcome
7:30 pm	Practice Sessions

Monday, February 17

7:00 am	Breakfast
8:45 am	Presentations
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Presentations
3:00 pm	UGA Campus/Lab Tours
7:30 pm	Finalist Practice Sessions/ Peer Poster Session

Tuesday, February 18

7:00 am	Breakfast
8:15 am	Finalist Presentations
12:55 pm	Closing Banquet
2:30 pm	Awards Ceremony

April/May 2025 National JSHS

Location TBA

Project Categories

Projects submitted to the Georgia Junior Science & Humanities Symposium (GJSHS) must be entered in ONE of the eight categories below. Some projects may fit in multiple categories (especially those in areas related to biomedical science / medicine and health), but only one category should be selected. *Note: The National Junior Science & Humanities Symposium may use different project categories and/or subcategories from those used by GJSHS.*

When selecting a category, consider what type of professionals would be most qualified to evaluate your project, and what areas of expertise are most important for a judge to have.

Category selected by student during the application process is not guaranteed and may be changed after review of Abstract and Research Paper.

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

(includes Biomedical Medicine, Microbiology, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Genetics, Immunology, Pharmacology, Virology)

CHEMISTRY & MATERIALS SCIENCE

(includes Physical Chemistry, Materials, Alternative Fuels, Organic Chemistry [possibly in Life Sciences], Chemical Engineering, Earth Science, Geochemistry, Materials Science)

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

(includes Aerospace, Aerodynamics, Electrical Engineering, Solar Energy, Vehicle Development, Devices, Mechanical Engineering, Robotics)

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

(includes Environmental Engineering, Bioremediation, Ecosystems Management, Land Resource Management, Pollution, Toxicity in Ecosystems)

LIFE & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

(includes Developmental Biology, Plant Physiology, Population Genetics, General Biochemistry, Microbiology, Behavioral Science)

MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

(includes Probability and Statistics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Algorithms, Databases, Networking, Computer Engineering)

MEDICINE & HEALTH

(includes Biochemistry, Bioengineering, Disease Diagnosis and Treatment, Epidemiology, Immunology, Neuroscience, Physiology, Pathology)

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

(includes Astronomy, Theoretical Physics, Solid State Physics, Acoustics, Optics, Thermodynamics, Particle Physics, Quantum Physics, Nuclear Physics, Internet of Things [Network of physical objects embedded with electronics, software, sensors, and network connectivity])

Paper & Presentation Criteria

The following criteria, adapted from the National JSHS judging process, are used to guide discussions and evaluations of submitted research papers and presentations for the Georgia Junior Science & Humanities Symposium. **All papers and presentations must also follow the Rules & Guidelines beginning on page 9.**

1. Research Problem

- Clearly demonstrates thorough understanding of existing knowledge about the research problem.
- Research problem is clearly stated and explained in detail.

2. Scientific Thought, Creativity/Originality

- There is balanced presentation of relevant and legitimate information and data to support the research problem.
- Shows thoughtful, in-depth analysis of the topic.
- Fully demonstrates researcher's individual contributions to the project.

3. Research Design*

- Description of research design and procedures is detailed and shows reproducibility.
- Procedures are appropriate for the problem.
- Control and variables are clearly identified and explained.

***for projects in Engineering, Technology, & Computer Science fields:**

- Clear, detailed description and recognition of relationship between design and end product.
- Addresses economic feasibility of solution.
- Solution is tested for performance under conditions of use.

4. Methods

- Encompasses all materials required.
- Clearly states the hypothesis/research questions and explains the study design.
- If used, statistical procedures are included.
- A detailed narration of the steps taken to complete the experiment is included.

5. Results

- Results of the research are summarized.
- Data trends are clearly addressed and analyzed.
- Data that can stand alone in tables/figures are included in the paper or appendix.

6. Discussion/Conclusions

- Conclusion is logical and relevant to the research problem and results of experimentation or testing.
- Discussion addresses the significance of the results in detail, as well as recognizes the limits of the research.
- Practical and/or theoretical implications of the research are recognized.

7. Communication

- Clearly communicates research results to non-specialized audience and judges.
- Terms are defined as needed. Avoids overuse of technical jargon.
- (Presentation): Responses to questions from judges and audience are thoughtful and appropriate.

8. Sources/Acknowledgements

- Acknowledges major assistance received and credits anyone who helped with project and describes their help in detail.
Note: Completion of the *Statement of Outside Assistance* form may not be sufficient. Sources of assistance should be acknowledged in the research paper and presentation.
- References listed in the bibliography are significant, published, and relevant sources.

Judging

The Judging Process

At the Georgia Junior Science & Humanities Symposium (GJSHS), the first round of judging occurs when the students' research papers are reviewed by a team of STEM researchers and industry professionals. Based on evaluation of the submitted papers, students are selected to present their research at GJSHS February 16-18, 2025. The presentations will represent the finest efforts of high school students in the state toward either original laboratory research, field research, or applied research. See page 14 for presentation guidelines.

During presentations, judges are permitted a questioning period during which the judging team may ask questions about the student's paper, research process, or presentation. These questions are intended to aid judges by clarifying the student's depth of understanding, the amount of work and level of effort the student put in to the research, and the individual contributions to the project.

Following judging of the presentations on Monday, February 17, the judging team will deliberate to select approximately ten students for the finalist presentations on Tuesday, February 18. From the finalists, five student delegates will be selected to advance to the National Junior Science & Humanities Symposium. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finalists will receive \$2,000, \$1,500, and \$1,000 scholarships, respectively.

At the National JSHS, student research presentations will be organized in concurrent sessions by discipline. Military-sponsored scholarships and other awards will go to finalists from each of the sessions.

In the evaluation of the presentations, judges are reminded that a key element of JSHS is the intellectual development of the individual student as an experimenter and researcher. The student presentation should clearly demonstrate in its quality and content that it is in alignment with the objectives and mission of the Junior Science & Humanities Symposia Program.

All GJSHS applicants must follow the Rules & Guidelines beginning on page 9.

Judging Criteria

Regional and national judges evaluate the research papers and presentations using a set of standardized criteria, which provide a framework and basis for discussion among judges for the selection of students to advance to subsequent rounds of competition. These criteria are stated briefly below; see page 6 for more details.

- 1) Statement and understanding of **research problem**;
- 2) Scientific or engineering **thought; creativity and originality**;
- 3) Research or engineering **design, methods, results**;
- 4) Logical **conclusion and discussion** relevant to the research problem;
- 5) Skill in **communicating the research results**;
- 6) Acknowledgement of **sources and major assistance received**.

The GJSHS Judging Team

The GJSHS judging team includes individuals who have significant graduate-level education and experience in the general fields of research that are represented by the GJSHS project categories. Although specialized experience in each student's field of research at GJSHS is typically represented among the judges, it is not guaranteed in any given year. Therefore, student presenters are reminded of their responsibility to communicate their results so that they may be understood by both a non-specialized audience and by the judges. Judges are also selected for their interest in encouraging students and in the future development of STEM fields and research.

The GJSHS office, the National Science Teaching Association, and the judging team recognize the significant effort that students undertake in conducting their research. Our objective is to ensure an equitable competition by selecting qualified judges and by communicating the rules of competition to both students and judges. We realize that in any competition of this nature, differences of opinion about the judges' interpretations may occur. **It is the policy of the Georgia JSHS to support the interpretations and final decisions of the judging team.**

Awards

Significant awards are available to Junior Science & Humanities Symposium regional and national student finalists. University-contributed scholarships or other awards may be offered to Georgia JSHS participants. The availability of these additional awards, type of award, and value vary by year. The following awards are supported jointly by the U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense and the U.S. Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. All scholarships are payable upon matriculation to college and upon meeting the JSHS scholarship conditions.

For students who participate in regional and national symposia...

- **Public recognition and certificates**, honoring achievement and interest in research pursuits
- **Attain a sense of achievement and self-confidence** resulting from interaction with students from other schools and regions and with professional researchers and educators. To quote a former JSHS alumnus, “[At JSHS] I learned a tremendous amount of science, got to meet other high school students who shared my interests in science, and learned that I could succeed at any program that I chose to pursue.”

For teachers...

- **\$1,000 cash prize** to ten teachers across the U.S. honoring the individual teacher and their school’s contributions to advancing student participation in STEM research.

For the regional finalists...

- **An expense-paid trip to the National JSHS**, awarded to five finalists at each regional symposium. The National JSHS brings together over 360 participants in a program of educational and scientific exchange.
- **An invitation to present their original research investigation at the National JSHS** in the oral presentation competition for two regional finalists or in a poster competition for three regional finalists.
- **\$2,000 undergraduate, tuition scholarship**, awarded to the 1st place finalist at the regional JSHS.
- **\$1,500 undergraduate, tuition scholarship**, awarded to the 2nd place finalists at the regional JSHS.
- **\$1,000 undergraduate, tuition scholarship**, awarded to the 3rd place finalist at the regional JSHS.

For the national finalists...

- **\$12,000 undergraduate, tuition scholarships**, awarded to each of the 1st place finalists at the National JSHS.
- **\$8,000 undergraduate, tuition scholarships**, awarded to each of the 2nd place finalists at the National JSHS.
- **\$4,000 undergraduate, tuition scholarships**, awarded to each of the 3rd place finalists at the National JSHS.

Scholarship Eligibility

Qualifying students must be a citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) of the United States and be enrolled full-time in an accredited institution to be eligible for scholarship awards. All scholarship payments are made directly to the student’s college of enrollment. For Team projects, scholarships and other awards available at Regional and National Symposia are awarded only to the presenter. Total scholarship awards available through JSHS are capped at a maximum of \$30,000 per individual student winner. For more information about JSHS scholarships, see jshs.org/students/awards/#regional-awards.

RULES & GUIDELINES

Required for Entry: STATEMENT OF OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

All JSHS applicants prepare and submit the *Statement of Outside Assistance* form as a part of their application. This form requires students to report on their contributions to the research investigation. Comments by the supervising teacher and/or supervising mentor are reported, to include 1) comments on the student's individual contributions to the research investigation or engineering/computer science project; and 2) acknowledgment that the student conducted the research in accordance with proper procedures and protocols for the conduct of animal research or human research. Students may only use the JSHS-provided form dated 2024-2025. **Please ensure the SOA form is complete and uploaded correctly before submitting the GJSHS application. This includes all required signatures and comments from the teacher/mentor (or parent, if no teacher/mentor was involved). Applications containing blank or incomplete SOA forms may be disqualified.**

Required for Entry: ABSTRACT

All JSHS applicants must submit a maximum 250-word Abstract as a single-page Word document with their application. The Abstract should accurately convey the essential nature of the research conducted and the most significant conclusions reached. A further purpose of the Abstract is to attract the interest and curiosity of the non-specialist reader and thus encourage exchange, discussion, and elaboration between various authors and readers.

For Georgia JSHS, the Abstract must be uploaded to the online application as a stand-alone, single-page **Word document (.docx)**, separate from the Research Paper (which is uploaded as a PDF).

ABSTRACT REQUIREMENTS

*Please read carefully before preparing abstract. See also **Additional Tips for Abstracts and Research Papers** on page 11. Note that National JSHS may have different Abstract requirements than Georgia JSHS.*

1. Maximum 250 words
2. Standard formatting: 1-inch margins, typed in 12 point standard font such as Times New Roman or Calibri
3. A header preceding the abstract body should include:
 - a. Title of the research
 - b. Author name
 - c. High school, high school city, high school state
 - d. Name of teacher/mentor/sponsor and his or her organization. Precede the individual's name with a descriptor such as "Teacher:" or "Mentor:".
 - e. Include one line of space between the heading and the abstract body.
4. It is recommended that the abstract include the following elements, written in **narrative form** without subtitles:
 - a. The **statement of the problem** tells the reader what specific questions are addressed in the study. The variables and limitations are identified. The intent and objectives of the research effort are made explicit in this statement.
 - b. The **purpose** states the usefulness of the study. It answers the question as to why the project was undertaken.
 - c. The **hypothesis** is an educated guess that shows the relationship between a set of observed facts and a theory. The hypothesis limits the scope of the investigation and unifies the research design. **Engineering, math, computer science, and sometimes physics projects may not have a hypothesis.**
 - d. The **procedure** provides a brief summary of what was done.
 - e. The **conclusions** provide a concise statement of the outcomes of the investigation. They should be written in non-technical language and be related directly to the hypothesis. The conclusions should identify unsolved aspects of the original problem or any new problems identified.

RULES & GUIDELINES

Required for Entry: RESEARCH PAPER

The Research Paper details the original scientific research and should generally follow “best practices” in the field of study. Work must be that of the student, not the mentor. The Research Paper should be uploaded as a **PDF document**.

RESEARCH PAPER REQUIREMENTS

Please read carefully before preparing research paper. Note that National JSHS may have different Research Paper requirements than Georgia JSHS, notably regarding allowable paper length.

1. Must be minimum of 6 pages and **maximum of 20 pages** (includes **ALL** paper components, i.e., title page, table of contents, works cited, **appendices**, etc.). Must be typed in a standard 12-point font, such as **Times New Roman** or **Calibri**. Must be **double-spaced**. Must use **1-inch margins**.

RESEARCH PAPERS EXCEEDING 20 PAGES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

2. Must be submitted as a **PDF** (.pdf). Please double-check formatting of images, tables, page numbering, etc. before submission to ensure distortion did not occur during PDF conversion.

In cases where there is reasonable doubt about whether a paper violates formatting requirements (margins, spacing, font size, etc.), the paper may be required to be resubmitted as a Word (.docx) file for verification.

3. Must use APA style format. For help with APA, see the [APA Guide](#) and [Purdue OWL](#).
4. Photography, graphs, tables, diagrams, charts, or other graphic representation in the paper must be simply presented.
5. **The following elements and format are recommended:**
 - a. TITLE PAGE - Include the title of the research, student's name, school, and school address.
 - b. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MAJOR ASSISTANCE - Include a statement on where and when the research was done and acknowledge those who assisted you with the study.
 - c. 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.”
 - d. TABLE OF CONTENTS - List the topics and sub-topics in order and the page numbers on which they start.
 - e. INTRODUCTION - Provide background details or the setting of your specific research problem. Assume that the reader will be scientifically literate but may not be familiar with the details. State the purpose of the study early, and then state the hypotheses that you are testing. Describe what is already known about the research.
 - f. MATERIALS AND METHODS - Describe the materials, methods, or procedures used to conduct the research. This section should be specific enough that the research could be replicated.
 - g. RESULTS (DATA OR FINDINGS) - Present the results of your research finding in logical order. Use graphs, tables, and/or other representations. Tables and graphs should be numbered separately and should include captions. Explain the important features of each table, graph, etc. Report the results of statistical analyses of your data and the type of statistical tests used.
 - h. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS - Interpret your results. Restate the hypotheses and explain how the data supported or rejected the hypotheses. Discuss your research findings in relationship to what is already known about the research problem (reported in the introduction). Draw conclusions based on your findings. The conclusions can include relevant, subjective observations or comments, but state that these are speculation.

Continued on following page →

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS (continued from previous page): Acknowledge any limitations that affect the research results. For example, what further experiments need to be performed? Statistical techniques used to manipulate the data may have limitations. Some of the treatment effect might have been caused by a random, uncontrolled, intervening variable. Again, acknowledge these limitations and other factors over which the researcher had no control, and state how these might have influenced the study outcomes.

- i. REFERENCES OR LITERATURE CITED - List citations for every article cited in your text. Endnotes are needed for all direct quotations and for all important statements of fact or opinion that are taken from written sources. Figures, dates, descriptions of situations, scientific data, opinion, representations and the like which are presented to advance the subject of the paper must have a stated source. Check with your teacher or other advisors if you need further assistance in the format for endnotes.
- j. APPENDICES - If necessary, you may include large tables of raw data in your report. please keep in mind that the introduction is far more valuable in the judging process than appendices of raw data. Label and paginate appendices. **Appendices are included in total page count. Total page count may not exceed 20 pages.**

Additional Tips for Abstracts and Research Papers

1. Use past tense and third person in describing completed research and present tense when stating existing facts and what is in the paper.
2. Incorrect spelling and sentence structure will discourage interest in your project.
3. Assume that the reader has a good general technical vocabulary, but try to avoid use of highly-specialized words or abbreviations.
4. In the Abstract, if reference to procedure is essential, try to restrict it to identification of method or type of process employed. In the Research Paper, discuss the details of procedures and equipment.
5. State results, conclusions, or findings in a clear, concise fashion.
6. Have your teachers read your abstract and paper to make sure they communicate clearly.
7. Helpful references:
 - a. Kathryn, Geese & Rezba, Students and Research (ISBN 0-8403-7766-5)
 - b. Matthews, Bowen & Matthews, Successful Scientific Writing (ISBN 0-521-55948-0)
 - c. Rezba, Sprague, Fiel, Funk, Learning and Assessing Science Process Skills (ISBN 0-8403-8430-0)

Please use the correct file types when completing the application:



The **Abstract** must be a **Word (.docx)** file



The **Research Paper** must be a **PDF** file.

Plagiarism and Outside Assistance

All abstracts and research papers submitted to regional and national JSBS must be the original work of the student. Research papers may include supporting materials that were created by another person if an accurate citation of the quoted material is included. Quotations from materials printed in newspapers, magazines or books are permissible if an accurate citation is included. If citations are not included, this is a form of plagiarism.

No submission may include any trademarked material(s) without the written permission from the owner(s) of the trademarked material(s). In addition, no research paper may include material that was created by another person without permission to quote such materials by the creator or owner of such intellectual property, such as unpublished documents or documents that explicitly say to obtain permission to use, and a copy of such permission must be made available to JSBS.

JSBS expects that all work students submit will be their own. In instances of collaboration during the research process, the **Statement of Outside Assistance** must list all contributors.

JSBS specifically forbids the use of ChatGPT or any other generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to write the abstract or research paper. Any use of AI tools must be clearly identified in the **Statement of Outside Assistance**.

Plagiarism will result in the submission being disqualified from the regional or national JSBS event.

RULES & GUIDELINES

Research Involving Vertebrate Animals or Human Subjects

Research involving vertebrate animals or human subjects must be conducted under the direct supervision of a qualified teacher or mentor with an approved active protocol which complies with local, state, or federal regulations for such research. The Junior Science & Humanities Symposium requires students to acknowledge in their written research report, and in the *Statement of Outside Assistance*, that proper procedures and protocols were followed. Projects that were conducted without proper supervision will be disqualified from both Regional and National competition.

The JSHS Program recognizes that students may conduct research in a high school setting, and both students and teachers may have questions on how to obtain proper approvals if the research is conducted in a school, home, or field research setting versus in a university laboratory.

General guidelines follow on experimentation involving vertebrate animals (adapted from Bonkalski et al, 1994):

- Only animals that are lawfully acquired shall be used in experimentation and their retention and use shall be in every case in strict compliance with state and local laws and regulations.
- Animals used in experimentation must receive every consideration for their bodily comfort; they must be kindly treated, properly fed, and their surroundings kept in a sanitary condition.
- No intrusive techniques may be used, including surgery, injections, or taking of blood.
- When animals are used by students for their education or the advancement of science, such work shall be under the direct supervision of a committee of individuals knowledgeable of applicable regulations governing the care and animal of animals in the conduct of the project.
- At no time should a student do harm to a vertebrate animal in the conduct of the research.

General guidelines follow on research involving human subjects (adapted from Bonkalski et al., 1994):

- No project may use drugs, food, or beverages in order to measure their effect on a person.
- Projects that involve exercise and its effect on pulse, respiration rate, blood pressure, and so on are approved if a valid normal physical examination is on file and provided the exercise is not carried to the extreme.
- If your research involves administration of questionnaires or surveys, a proper consent from subjects must be obtained.
- No human cultures of any type – mouth, throat, skin, or otherwise – will be allowed.
- Tissue cultures purchased from reputable biological supply houses or research facilities are suitable.
- The only human blood that may be used is that which is either purchased or obtained from a blood bank, hospital, or laboratory. No blood may be drawn by any person or from any person specifically for a science project. This rule does not preclude a student making use of data collected from blood tests not made exclusively for a science project. Blood may not be drawn exclusively for a science project.
- Experimentation involving human subjects requires direct supervision of a committee of individuals knowledgeable of applicable regulations governing the conduct of such research. Non-regulated research institutions (i.e. high schools) should establish a committee of knowledgeable teachers and other mentors to view the research plan prior to the conduct of the research.

RULES & GUIDELINES

Presentation Rules & Guidelines

Students who are selected as Presenters for the Georgia Junior Science & Humanities Symposium (GJSHS) will prepare a 12 minute oral presentation of their scientific research. For this presentation, students may use a computer-projected presentation developed with *PowerPoint* or other slide presentation software.

GJSHS is modeled after the National JSHS. The purpose of the presentations is to afford students the opportunity and experience of reporting their research and experimentation to an assemblage of their peers, teachers, and other symposium attendees, and to allow judges to select those presentations that merit special recognition.

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. At the 12-minute point, the student speaker must stop the presentation, even if they have not finished. Following the presentation, the session moderator will ask for questions from the judging panel. The speaker may repeat a question before answering so the audience may understand the entire dialogue. If the speaker runs out of time and does not get to show all of their presentation slides, they cannot reference unseen slides during the question-and-answer period.

EQUIPMENT

Available audio-visual equipment in each session at GJSHS includes: (1) projector; (2) projection screen; (3) laptop computer; (4) PowerPoint remote. Students may bring their own laptop computer for use during their presentation. Equipment operators **will not** be available in each session. Equipment problems are rare but possible; in the event of an issue, ask a chaperone contact the GJSHS director immediately. Students may enlist the help of a teacher or fellow student when experiencing difficulty with audio-visual equipment. Students should be prepared to re-show visuals during the questioning period.

COMPUTER USAGE

Presenters are instructed to:

1. Incorporate any video, illustrations or other graphical representations into a PowerPoint (or other slide presentation program).
2. Save the presentation file in a reliable location, such as a USB flash drive, the cloud, or both.
3. Prepare for any equipment problems by bringing back-up presentation materials.
4. Test computer equipment that may be brought to the symposium prior to the designated presentation time.

AUDIO AND VIDEO USAGE

Any use of audio or video must comply with the following:

1. Audio/video may be used only for aspects of the presentation that cannot adequately be presented in a slide.
2. Audio/video material must be integral to the research and should not be a substitute for presentation of data.
3. Video must not be used showing common procedures, equipment, or laboratory facilities.
4. Audio/video should illustrate work that was done and should not be used for stimulation or aesthetic value.
5. Audio/video should not make up more than one (1) minute of the presentation.
6. Audio/video must be embedded in the presentation.
7. Recorded or mechanically produced narration is not permitted. Narration must come from the presenter.

OTHER PRESENTATION RULES

Everything presented must be in the presentation slides alone. Presenters are not allowed to bring anything else to the presentation, including proof of design, materials, or written handouts. **QR codes or links leading to information not included in the slides are not permitted.**

Presentation Tips & Suggestions

Remember, you are the expert. No one in the audience knows as much about your research investigation as you. Explain your research in enough detail so the audience will understand what you did, how you did it, and what you learned. Whenever possible, avoid jargon or unnecessary terminology. If it is essential to use specialized terms, remember to explain the specialized term briefly. Give your audience enough time to understand what you are trying to convey.

Graphs, tables and other representation help explain your results. Keep them simple and uncluttered. Focus on important information; e.g., name the variables on both axes of a graph, and state the significance of the position and shape of the graph line.

Practice will help perfect the presentation and the timing. Deliver your presentation at a comfortable pace. It helps to practice before a non-specialized audience. Do listen to the advice of your non-specialized audience but also get help from a teacher or other advisors as needed.