

## Ralph Desch Memorial Technical Writing Award

This is a technical writing award named in memory of Ralph Desch, a former board member, one of the driving forces in the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair, a technical writer, and an employee of the National Bureau of Standards.

To be considered for this award, you must be a senior division participant and prepare a technical report as if you were planning to be published in a scientific or technical journal. This is separate from your project write-up. The winner receives a \$100 cash award.

Technical reports may differ in their organization, but the following format is typical:

- I. Introduction – includes a literature review (with appropriate citations) and the research questions/objectives/hypotheses
- II. Method – explains how the data were collected, analyzed and interpreted
- III. Results – presents data, usually in tables and/or figures, including a brief narrative reviewing the key findings
- IV. Discussion – explain key findings, and interpret data and graphs; other literature relevant to the results, and acknowledgements of limitations of the study are also included here
- V. Conclusions
- VI. References – includes literature cited in the paper, not the works cited in the project on the topic
- VII. Appendix

Judges for this award assess the technical quality of the report-- the organization and quality, including correct grammar, spelling, mechanics, format, layout, etc. If you have a sample article from the scientific or technical journal in which you aspire to be published, it is helpful to include that as well.

Students wishing to be considered for this award must indicate this on their registration form. The technical report must be clearly labeled, placed in a binder separate from your lab notebook and turned in at the Registration Booth on Thursday. An electronic copy may also be submitted for publication on the CSEF web site.