

CSEF Technical Writing Awards

The CSEF has two technical writing awards, one for a senior division participant and one for a junior division participant.

The Senior Division award is 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.

The Junior Division award is named after Elemer Bernath, one of the founders of the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair and current CSEF Historian.

To be considered for either award, you must 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 winners receive 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 and submit an electronic copy of the report to the CSEF by April 1st.