

Sci4Teens

Science Writing

Contest Rules

sci4teens.com

[@sci4teensofficial](https://twitter.com/sci4teensofficial)

linktr.ee/sci4teens



Authored by:

Sci4Teens Executive Team

Intro to Sci4Teens

Helping teens get involved in science communication.

Welcome to Sci4Teens! We are a group of high school students across the world helping other teens get involved with science research, blogging, and communication through writing contests, newsletters, and workshops.

Sci4Teens also provides mentorship for students that have questions about science writing and research.

Our second contest will take submissions from December 5th, 2020 - February 9th, 2021. Anyone of the ages 13-18 is allowed to enter the contest!

Join our community Slack for networking, opportunities, and updates regarding the contest!

Submission Rules

Rules regarding the science writing submission.

- There should be no information identifying any of the authors on the article.
- Entrants should be between the ages of 13-18.
- Submissions can either be individual or in teams that are composed of three or fewer members.
- Each article must be divided into sections based on the content of the article.
- If authors choose to include tables and figures, the number of tables/figures should not exceed three. Each figure should have a caption underneath, and each table should have a title.

Formatting Rules

Submit your articles in the MLA style format to avoid disqualification.

- The title of the file should be the title of the submitted article.
- Each submission should have a title, centered on the top of the submission.
- All submissions should be in 12 pt. Times New Roman font, in PDF format.
- Submissions should not exceed 800 words (not including the title and citations), although more concise articles are preferred
- Each submission must have an abstract, which summarizes the article in less than 150 words.
- Each submission must have a conclusion in the end.
- Each submission must have citations (and in-text citations) which follow the MLA Style Manual.

Submission Categories

Impacts, Vaccine Development, Crisis Management

You may submit your pieces to one of the following categories: **Impacts of COVID-19, COVID-19 Vaccine Development, and COVID-19 Crisis Management** (think: if I was a community leader, what steps would I take to mitigate COVID-19?).

Each category will have two subcategories, one comprising of ages 13-15, and the other comprising of ages 16-18. The age of the oldest person in a team should be the age category that the team should enter in. The prizes will be awarded to these subcategories separately.

Submissions in a category that are off topic will not be judged. Prizes for each category will be the same, so there is no advantage to submitting in one category vs. another.

Judging Rubric

Articles that are plagiarized will automatically be disqualified

| Section | 4 points | 3 points | 2 points | 1 point | 0 points |
|--------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| Abstract | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thoroughly summarizes all aspects of the article - Readers can know exactly what the article entails before reading the body - 150 words or fewer, concise - Explains any high-level scientific terminology - Grammatically correct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thoroughly summarizes most aspects of the article - Readers have a somewhat clear idea of what the article is about - 150 words or fewer, not necessarily concise - Explains some high-level scientific terminology - Somewhat grammatically correct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not effectively summarize the article - Readers have an unclear idea of what the article is about - Greater than 150 words, not concise - Does not explain high-level scientific terminology - Not grammatically correct |
| Article Body | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article topic is interesting, and is researched in depth - Divided into an appropriate number of sections, which makes article easy to understand - High-level scientific terminology explained - Tables and figures are clear with titles and captions - In third person (he/she/it) - Grammatically correct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article topic is interesting, and is researched somewhat deeply - Divided into slightly too many/too few sections - Most high-level scientific terminology explained - Tables and figures are mostly clear with titles and captions - In third person (he/she/it) - Mostly grammatically correct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article topic is somewhat interesting, and researched somewhat deeply - Divided into slightly too many/too few sections - Some high-level scientific terminology explained - Tables and figures are somewhat clear with titles and captions - In third person (he/she/it) most of the time - Somewhat grammatically correct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article topic is not very interesting, and not too much research is done - Divided into too many/too few sections - Most high-level scientific terminology is not explained - Tables and figures are unclear with unclear titles and captions - In third person only sometimes (he/she/it) - Somewhat grammatically correct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article topic is not very interesting, and almost no research has been done - Divided into too many/too few sections - Almost no high-level scientific terminology explained - Tables and figures are extremely unclear, have no titles and captions - Not in third person (he/she/it) most of the time - Not grammatically correct |
| Conclusion | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gives a concise, but effective summary of the article - Provides reasonable implications of scientific topic - Grammatically correct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of the article is too long/too short - Provides reasonable implications of scientific topic - Mostly grammatically correct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of the article is too long/too short - Provides somewhat reasonable implications of scientific topic - Somewhat grammatically correct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of the article either takes up the whole article or is not present - Provides unreasonable implications or no implications of scientific topic - Not grammatically correct |
| Citations | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sources are appropriately cited using MLA format | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sources are incorrectly cited in MLA format |

Contest Awards

Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in each category.

- **1st Place** – Publication of piece in Sci4Teens Blog and Cellfie Magazine, opportunity to give virtual presentation on a topic of their choice, opportunity to become a Sci4Teens Ambassador.
- **2nd Place** – Publication of piece in Sci4Teens Blog and Cellfie Magazine, opportunity to network with partners of Sci4Teens.
- **3rd Place** – Publication of piece in Sci4Teens Blog and Cellfie Magazine
- **Grand Prize** – Mentoring session with a representative from @impactmedialab.