

SDSRT Scientific Essay Rules for Entrants

Updated 5/2026

1. Eligibility

- a. Student technologists who are paid members of the SDSRT for the current year are eligible for the Scientific Essay Awards Competition.
 - i. **Registered Technologist Enrolled as Full Time Student:** This includes technologists registered and/or certified by a nationally recognized professional radiation science certification agency and currently enrolled full time in an advanced certification program accredited by an appropriate national accreditation agency.
 1. Students enrolled in an advanced certification program must choose a topic related to their advanced curriculum to write their essay on. (Example: Radiation therapy students may not write an essay about Digital Radiography)
 - ii. **Student:** This includes students currently enrolled full time in professional radiation science programs recognized by an appropriate national accreditation agency. These participants shall not be registered and/or certified by a nationally recognized radiation science professional certification agency

2. Submission Requirements

- a. All submissions shall clearly demonstrate a relationship of the topic to the field of radiation sciences or the role of radiation science professionals.
- b. All submissions must be original, in so far as; they have never been entered into any competition or read at a State or National meeting prior to the annual conference. **Plagiarism will be grounds for disqualification.**
- c. Submissions **may not** contain any marks of identification such as pictures, references to doctors, film or x-ray companies, or hospitals that can in any way present a clue as to the origin of the author or the author's department or training program.
- d. The submission of the essay must be done online via the "Online Scientific ESSAY Registration Form" found below these rules on the website page. This must be completed by February 1st of the convention year. If the file cannot be uploaded for any reason, the current Student Affairs Committee Chairman must be notified.
- e. A letter from the director of the program or other identified faculty is needed to attest that the presentation has been evaluated for accuracy and quality and that the speaking skills of the student technologist demonstrate professionalism.

3. Format

- a. All research essays should be formatted using AMA style, Arial or Times New Roman Font size 12, 1.5 spacing, and consecutively numbered pages.
- b. Required format and order of the research essay submission:
 - i. Cover page to include
 1. Title
 2. Author
 3. Email
 4. Place of employment or training
 5. Date completed/completion of training
 - ii. Title page
 1. Only include the title of your essay
 - iii. An outline of the topic.
 - iv. A minimum of **three** learning objectives listed on a separate page.
 - v. Abstract on a separate page
 1. 100-150 words
 - vi. References page

4. Selection of Judges

- a. Initial judging of the scientific essays will be performed by a three member committee appointment by the Scientific Award Chairperson.
- b. The evaluation committee will have no prior knowledge of the author or place of employment/training.
- c. The four highest scoring student essays will be selected for presentation at the annual state meeting. If there is a tie for one of the presentation spots, a 4th non--affiliated judge will be chosen to break the tie and choose which essays is to be selected. This is ultimately up to the discretion of the SDSRT Board.
- d. The judges' decisions will be final.
 - i. Authors selected to present must notify the Scientific Awards Chairman of any audiovisual materials needed for presentation. Reading time shall not be fewer than 15 minutes and no longer than 20 minutes. The time limits include showing of films, slides, and/or other demonstrations.
- e. Winners can refer to the Scientific Presentation Rubric for further guidelines.

5. Notification

- a. All entrants will be sent a letter of congratulations or regret via email by the chairperson of the Scientific Awards Committee. Entrants will be notified as soon as the judging has been completed and winners selected.

6. Annual State Conference Prizes

- a. First and second place awards shall be presented to students along with Honorable Mention prizes for third and fourth place.
- b. The Board of Directors will determine the awards for prizes on a yearly basis.
- c. If there is a tie for first and second place, the tie will be broken by the following method:
 - i. First place will be determined by who received the highest score on the Scientific Essay Evaluation
 - ii. If that still leads to a tie, then first place will be awarded to whoever received the highest total score for verbal delivery during presentation.