

Category Descriptions*

The Sciences

Architecture

The science, art or profession of designing buildings or outdoor spaces

Biology

The science of life or of origin, structure, reproduction, growth and development of living organisms collectively.

Chemistry

The science that deals with the composition, structure and properties of chemical processes and phenomena of substances and the transformation that they undergo.

Computer Science

The science that deals with the theoretical aspects of computers including storage and the transformation of data using computers.

Mathematics

The science of numbers and their operations, interrelations, combinations, generalizations, and abstractions of spaced configurations and their structure.

Physics/Electronics

A branch of physics that deals with the emission, behavior or effects (as in electron tubes and transistors) and with electronic devices.

Physics/Energy

A branch of physics that deals with usable power (as heat or electricity) and the resources for producing such power.

Physics/General

The science that deals with matter and energy and their interactions in the fields of mechanics, acoustics, optics, heat, electricity, magnetism, radiation, atomic structure and nuclear phenomena.

Requirements

1. Only one (1) project can be entered per area.
2. Six (6) copies of a typed 8 1/2 inch by 11 inch, double spaced scientific paper must accompany the project to be submitted. The content of the paper which should not exceed five (5) pages, should include: a short introduction describing the background and purpose of the work, an experimental section including both methods and results, and a concluding section discussing the results and their implications. Tables, graphs, charts, maps, photographs, raw statistical data, etc. should be included whenever possible. They must also include references. The contestant's name, page number and branch must be on the top of each page.
3. The contestant is to make an oral presentation explaining his or her project. The oral presentation should not exceed five (5) minutes. This time limit does not include the time required for the judges to ask questions and for the contestant to respond to the judge's questions.
4. Contestants are responsible for providing their own equipment. (Display tables and electricity will be provided.)
5. Contestants must submit a Verification form from a qualified scientist or science teacher with an earned professional degree or license. This person can also serve as a coach, working closely with the student during the course of the project to ensure the accuracy of the student's research and qualification for entry.

6. For architectural projects, blueprints of the project must be 24 x 36 inches in length or width. The contestant must also submit a site plan, floor plan, a minimum of two (2) elevations and a section of the design at appropriate scale.
7. For architectural projects, the contestant is required to construct a scaled model of his or her project

**See official ACT-SO Guidebook for additional information and judging criteria.*

2

Category Descriptions*

The Humanities

Original Essay

A brief examination of a subject in prose usually expressing a personal view or interpretation of a subject or topic.

Playwriting

A literary composition developed for the stage.

Poetry

A composition, marked by language chosen for its sound, beauty and evocative power.

Requirements

1. Only one (1) original essay, poem or one act play written only by the contestant, with six (6) copies of the notarized original should be submitted. The top of each page must include the contestant's name, page number and branch.
2. The composition must be typed and double spaced; not to exceed twelve (12) pages for essay, five (5) pages for poem or twenty (20) pages for play. a one page synopsis must be included with the play.
3. The contestant must be prepared to answer questions by the judges.

The Performing Arts

Dance

To perform a series of rhythmic and patterned bodily movements usually performed to music.

Dramatics

The art of staging or acting plays.

Music Instrumental/Classical

The art of performing with a device used to produce music with tones of the late 18th and 19th centuries characterized by an emphasis on balance, clarity and moderation.

Music Instrumental/Contemporary

The art of performing with a device used to produce music with the tones of the present.

Music Vocal/Classical

The art of performing with the human voice rhythmic tones or sounds of the late 18th and 19th centuries characterized by an emphasis on balance, clarity and moderation.

Music Vocal/Contemporary

The art of performing with the human voice rhythmic tones or sounds to produce music with the tones of the present.

Oratory

The art of speaking in public eloquently and effectively. (It is not a dramatic presentation.)

Music Composition

The science or art of arranging music by ordering tones or sounds in succession, in combination or in temporal relationships to produce a composition having unity and continuity.

Requirements

1. Dance is to be a solo performance not to exceed five (5) minutes. Costumes are optional, but should be appropriate to the choreography performed. Musical accompaniment must be provided by the contestant on a standard cassette tape or compact disc clearly marked with the student's name and branch. The tape must contain only the music for the performance. It is recommended that the contestant provide a backup tape. The theme and the dance form (ballet, modern, jazz, ethnic, etc.) of the performance must be identified to the judges prior to the presentation. (Note: Aerobic exercises, street dancing, cheerleading and drill team routines may not be used.)

**See official ACT-SO Guidebook for additional information and judging criteria.*

Performing Arts cont'd

1. Dramatic performances must be a minimum of three (3) and maximum of five (5) minutes. The selection must be of literate quality. The material must be memorized. Costumes, makeup and props are optional, but not required.
2. Musical selections must be specifically written for solo performances and may not exceed five (5) minutes. Contestant must present six (6) copies of sheet music for classical selections. The only instrument provided for performance or accompaniment is the piano.
3. In Oratory, only one (1) speech is to be presented and it must not exceed five (5) minutes. The selection of the speech is the decision of the contestant; it should either be an original or an excerpt from a speech written by a famous individual or historical figure. It is not to be presented as a dramatic presentation. Costumes and props are not permitted. The material must be completely memorized.
4. In Music Composition, only one (1) original notarized composition with six (6) copies should be submitted. The top of each page must include the contestant's name, page number and branch. The composition must be neatly and precisely written on music transcript paper, in such a manner that any trained musician could perform the composition. The contestant must be prepared to play their compositions, if requested by the judges. A piano will be the only instrument provided. The composition must not exceed five (5) minutes.

The Visual Arts

Drawing

The art of representing forms and figures on a surface by means of lines.

Filmmaking/Video

The art and process of making motion pictures.

Painting

The art of laying on paints with a brush or a knife.

Photography

The process, art and technique of taking images recorded by a camera and reproducing them on a photosensitive surface.

Sculpture

The art of making three-dimensional figures or designs.

Requirements

1. Only one project can be submitted.
2. The contestant is required to make an oral presentation, not to exceed three (3) minutes explaining the methods or techniques used in developing the project. Drawing and painting submissions should be no larger than 36 inches x 48 inches. Mounting and matting are strongly recommended.
3. Film or video presentations should not exceed five (5) minutes. A story board or project theme must be associated with the film. One-half inch VHS or 8mm film is to be used.
4. In photography no more than six (6) photographs can be submitted or one (1) collage of work. They must be uniformly mounted using the same color boards no larger than 20 x 16 inches, white, black or gray boards. The contestant is required to make an oral presentation, which will not exceed three (3) minutes, explaining the methods or techniques used in developing the project.

**See official ACT-SO Guidebook for additional information and judging criteria.*

ACT-SO Eligibility Requirements

Each contestant must:

1. be of African-American descent
2. be enrolled in grades 9-12
3. be a citizen of the United States
4. be an individual who has demonstrated a genuine interest in one of the following categories:

Humanities

P e r f o r m i n g

A r t s

S c i e n c e s

Visual Arts

Dramatics

Dance

Architecture

Drawing

Oratory	Music Composition	Biology
Filmmaking/Video		
Original Essay	Music Instrumental/Classical	Chemistry
Painting		
Playwriting	Music Instrumental/Contemporary	Computer Science
Photography		
Poetry	Music Vocal/Classical	Mathematics
Sculpture		
	Music Vocal /Contemporary	
	Physics/General/Electronics/Energy	

Business

Entrepreneurship

5. submit a separate project, one contestant per category (contestant may enter up to three (3) categories.)
 6. having never performed as a paid professional in any category of competition (each contestant must be of amateur status.)
 7. be responsible for transportation of project
 8. conform to space requirements as dictated by category.
-

Category Descriptions*

Business

Entrepreneurship

Refers to owning, organizing, and managing your own business by providing a necessary product or service.

Requirements

1. Only one (1) business plan may be submitted per student. the business plan should be a minimum of 10 pages and not exceed 20 pages, including a cover page, executive summary, company description, marketing plan, a management plan and a financial plan, in addition to any supporting documents (i.e. graphs, photographs, statistical data.) The student's name, page number and branch must be at the top of each page. Six (6) copies, double spaced on 8 1/2 inch by 11 inch paper, must be submitted.
2. The contestant is required to make an oral presentation, not to exceed five (5) minutes explaining his/her business plan.
3. A visual presentation in the form of a display, slide show, overhead or Power Point presentation should be provided.
4. Contestants should be familiar with business terminology, in general, and about terminology related to their selected product/service.
5. Contestants are required to have personally conducted the business plan analysis and have been involved with the production of any prototype product or service trials.

**See official ACT-SO Guidebook for additional information and judging criteria.*