

## Writing Contest

The Science and Engineering Fair of Houston invites all participants in school or district level science fairs that are affiliated with SEFH to submit electronic papers about their science fair projects to the annual Science and Engineering Fair of Houston Writing Contest. Goals of the contest include the following:

- To encourage development of analytical thinking and writing.
- To recognize and reward excellence in technical writing.
- To promote awareness of the importance of effective communication in science, engineering, and technology.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

If you are a participant in this year's SEFH or an SEFH affiliated school or district level science fair, you are eligible to submit a research paper that is based on a project. ***Paper submissions must be associated with a current project entering the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston.*** Your project must adhere to the research and approval rules established by SEFH as outlined by SRC. Team projects are not eligible. There is no entry fee or entry quota for a school or district to participate in the writing contest.

### **AWARDS**

Winners will be recognized at the SEFH Awards Ceremony. Awards will be presented in each division.

### **PREPARATION OF THE ENTRY**

Discuss the format and content of the paper with your supervising teacher to satisfy particular requirements for your topic. An abstract and bibliography/reference list should be included. Use an acknowledgments section to give credit to those who assisted you with your project, including individuals, businesses, and educational or research institutions. Reference notes are highly encouraged. Number all pages. In addition to the paper, you may submit any or all the following supporting materials: graphics, illustrations, photographs, or sample programs. Supporting material enhance the communication process but should be relevant and clearly labeled.

- Use double-spacing, 12 pt. font Times New Roman text
- At a minimum, be sure your paper submission includes the following:
  - Title page with grade level
  - Abstract
  - Introduction/Literature Review
  - Methods/Work Done
  - Results and Discussion
  - Conclusion
  - References/Bibliography
  - Appendices (if needed)

- Name of science fair project (this should be placed on a separate page following the bibliography)
- Any supporting materials
- Page numbers

**To assure impartial judging, please adhere to the following:**

- (1) Do not put your name on any of the pages of the paper or supporting materials;
- (2) Do not identify or reference your school, school district, principal, supervising teacher, or parents in your paper

**SUBMISSION OF THE ENTRY**

Submit the entry prior to the deadline date of **January 26, 2024, at 5:00 PM**. Visit [sefhouston.org](http://sefhouston.org) for more information.

**JUDGING CRITERIA**

A team composed of scientists, engineers, and professional writers will review all the entries. Winners will be selected for their clear statements of purpose, logical organization of writing and scientific argument, conciseness and consistency in word choice, skillful execution of graphics, relevance of the graphics to the text, and competent use of grammar and spelling. The judging sheet used by SEFH essay judges can be found on the writing contest page on the SEFH website.

For more information about the Science & Engineering Fair of Houston Writing Contest, contact [info@sefhouston.org](mailto:info@sefhouston.org)

**RESOURCES**

- [Computer Science and Engineering: Parts of a Technical Paper](#)
- [How to Write an Engineering Research Paper](#)
- [How to write a research journal article in engineering and science](#)
- [The Importance of Technical Paper Writing](#)