GeoPRISMS / MARGINS) Prize for Outstanding Student Presentations
Suggestions for an Effective Presentation

The goal is to recognize your contributions to the science and the presentation. Evaluation will be based on criteria such as validity of science, clarity of expression, effective use of illustrations, organization, logic, timing, and accessibility to non-specialist scientists.

Oral Presentations

Oral Presentations should be audible from rear of room, with reasonably clear enunciation – recognizing that not all presenters will be native English speakers. Your presentation will be judged based on:

- Presentation:
    o legibility and clarity of speech and visual aids: slides and figures should be legible from the back of the room, well labeled, and simple and uncluttered enough to be quickly and easily understood by the audience
    o effective use of allotted time: proper practice shows and finishing early with time for questions is best
    o general style of presentation: large data tables or multiple graphs on one figure are hard for an audience to absorb and may detract from the presentation

- Content:
    o organization: explain the problem to be addressed, briefly describe your methods, present results, and draw explicit conclusions – all without diverging into unnecessary details
    o relevance of data to conclusions
    o comprehension and knowledge of the field: questions should be clearly understood, answered directly, and handled with poise
    o scientific significance
    o originality

There should be no more slides than are needed to support the science being presented and the introduction should be short enough to allow proper exploration of the student's research.

Poster Presentations

Poster Presentations stand on overall organization and logic and on legibility and clarity. It is important that you are able to explain any item without going into more detail than is necessary and are able to explain your poster logically, starting with background, and going on to results and conclusions. Practice ahead of the meeting can help with this. Your presentation will be judged based on:

- Presentation:
    o legibility, clarity, and efficiency of visual aids and accompanying text: title should be easily legible from ten feet away, too much or too little text are minuses and figures should be designed to be informative in a poster context
    o visual impact: layout and use of color
    o enthusiasm and demeanor

- Content:
    o Organization: explain the problem to be addressed, briefly describe your methods, present results, and draw explicit conclusions – all without diverging into unnecessary details
    o relevance of data to conclusions
    o comprehension and knowledge of the field: you should be able to handle the poster presentation and questions without assistance from your supervisor
    o scientific significance
    o originality

There should be an abstract or short summary at the beginning of your poster and a summary diagram and/or list of conclusions at the end for those who just want to read.