

**A449.2 DARREL S. METCALFE STUDENT JOURNALISM CONTEST COMMITTEE**A. Status: Special CommitteeB. Composition and Tenure:

The Committee consists of the Chair plus six members. The term of office for members is three years. The Chair serves for two years. He/she reports directly to the Chair of the National Student Awards Committee (ACS449), who is past Chair of the National Student Advisory Committee (ACS031). The Chair of A449.2 serves as a member of ACS449, the National Student Awards Committee.

One representative of the ASA Headquarters Office is an Ex Officio member of the Committee.

C. Functions:

1. To revise and prepare the annual call for entries, and to work with the Headquarters Office in the promotion and distribution of the call for entries.
2. To receive, at the appropriate time, all entries for the contest.
3. To evaluate all entries in the contest and score according to the rules in effect for that year.
4. To report results of the contest to the Chair of the National Student Awards Committee and to the Chair of the National Student Advisory Committee (ACS031).
5. To consider and take action on any special charges sent to the Committee by the ASA Board of Directors Executive Committees.
6. To make suggestions and/or recommendations to the National Student Advisory Committee (ACS031) regarding the Contest. These may be sent directly to the chair or through the Chair of the National Student Awards Committee.
7. To prepare and submit an annual report to the Society.

D. Presidential Responsibilities:

The ASA President:

1. Appoints new members to replace those whose terms expire and appoints the Chair of the Committee.
2. Cooperate with the committee in its activities, as appropriate or in response to need.
3. Receive and takes action directly, or by referring to the Executive Committees and/or Boards of Directors, as appropriate, all suggestions and/or recommendations for action from the committee.

E. Description of Contest:

The purpose of the Darrel S. Metcalfe Student Journalism Contest is to encourage and recognize writing by undergraduate students on topics relating to agronomy, crop science, and/or soil science. Written communication is a critical skill linked to career success. This contest is designed to give undergraduate students experience in the entire publication process, from conception through execution. This contest honors Dr. Darrel S. Metcalfe for his leadership and commitment to students, championing quality communication skills.

F. Awards and Recognition

Award-winning entries (up to 3 based on committee's discretion) will be awarded cash prizes of \$500 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$300 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and \$100 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. In addition, winning articles will be published in the journal of *Natural Sciences Education*, and authors will receive complimentary one-year subscriptions to the journal. Awards will be presented to authors at the SASES student awards program held during the ASA Annual Meetings. In addition, competition results will be announced in the CSA News magazine with links to articles.

G. Eligibility of Contestants:

1. All undergraduate students who are members of ASA, CSSA, and/or SSSA are eligible to enter the contest, except those who have won first, second, or third prize previously in this contest. Entries must be submitted prior to a student's graduation.

H. Contest Rules:

1. A maximum of three entries can be submitted from one faculty member/advisor.
2. Entries must be certified by a SASES club advisor, or if no club exists, then an institutional faculty member. Certification will occur through an automatically generated request for certification to the indicated advisor/faculty member. Entry will not be complete if certification is not completed prior to the entry deadline.
3. Each student is encouraged to consult faculty members for possible subjects for the entry, helpful hints on writing, where to obtain photographs and artwork, and so forth. Students need not take their own photographs or make their own finished drawings, but may choose to include them. If students select other photographs or artwork, they must make that selection entirely on their own. Papers written for a class can be used in the competition. Assistance may be obtained from someone else, provided they do not give editorial help. The manuscript can be reviewed *only once*. The review should be of a completed draft, may include comments and suggested revisions, but may not include any actual writing. If a paper was graded for a class, this constitutes one review and the manuscript may not be reviewed again. If the manuscript has not been previously reviewed for a class grade, the faculty advisor can provide one review.
4. The entry should be written as a science communication article, such as that found in the CSA News magazine or other science communication medium. Topics for science communication articles include the student's research, a professional's research and/or career, new/emerging fields of science or methodologies, or any topic that could be considered newsworthy in the field of science associated with the ASA, CSSA, SSSA, and SASES. The use of footnotes is not desirable; the use of subheadings is desirable. The audience you are addressing should include those reading CSA News (i.e., members of ASA, CSSA, SSSA, and SASES), which is a wide array of disciplines and educational levels.
5. Each manuscript must be an original effort by **one author**. General worth is important; the topic should be newsworthy, something with freshness, and contain information valuable to scientists, environmental professionals, agronomists, industry representatives, farmers, and/or farm advisors.
6. Manuscripts must be typed, double spaced, and target 1000 to 1500 words, which is approximately 3 to 5 pages of text. Margins must be a minimum of 2.5 cm (1 inch) on all sides, and 12-point font should be used. Title pages, tables, illustrations, and captions are not counted as text and should be on **separate pages**. Manuscripts with more 1500 words will be disqualified. The title page is required and must give the name of author, university, title of the entry, the words "Darrell S. Metcalfe Journalism Contest", and the year.
7. At least one, and preferably more, digital photographs, tables, graphs, or line drawings (or combination thereof) that illustrate the subject matter of the manuscript **must be included**. Original artwork is preferred,

but free-stock photo sites are also acceptable (e.g., Unsplash, Pexels, Pixabay, Shutterstock, iStock) with appropriate citation and permissions granted. All photographs, graphs, and/or drawings must be at least 300 dpi.

Line drawings must be original or digital images with the same minimum image quality requirements as photographs. All lettering should be at least 8 point. Authors may have an artist prepare the finished artwork from the author's initial rough sketch. All illustrations that are not the original work of the author must be properly cited, with permission granted as appropriate.

8. **Deadline.** Entries must be submitted and confirmed by their advisor/faculty member by the deadline date or will be disqualified.
9. **Disqualification.** An entry will be disqualified if:
  - a. It is submitted after the deadline
  - b. It exceeds the word count
  - c. It is missing a title page
  - d. It has no illustrations
  - e. Student author is not a current member of ASA, CSSA and/or SSSA as of the contest deadline,
  - f. Student author does not agree to publish in Natural Sciences Education.

Penalties will be assessed against entries that do not conform to other rules, but they will not be disqualified.

10. **Selection of winning entry and publication.** All qualified entries will be reviewed by this committee using the scoring metric outlined below. The decision of the committee is final. The committee can revise the number of awarded prizes based on the number of submissions or quality of submissions. Should a winning entry subsequently be disqualified, the committee will decide whether to award the prize to another submission. Entries that cannot be published as submitted for the contest, for whatever reason, will be disqualified. Publication editors of Natural Sciences Education have the right to request changes, particularly to images, figures, tables, prior to publication.

#### I. Scoring:

Entries will be rated, according to the criteria below, by all appointed members of this committee. Feedback and scores from judges may be shared with the contestants at the discretion of the committee chair.

#### **ITEM POINTS**

Please reference the judging rubric located at [acsmeetings.org/program/undergraduates/journalism-contest](https://acsmeetings.org/program/undergraduates/journalism-contest)

##### 1. Content- 50 Points

Topic (5), Title (5), Lead/Introduction (5), Focus (5), Writing Style/Voice (5), Balance (5), Conclusion (10), Graphic (10)

##### 2. Structure- 50 Points

Organization (15), Sentence/Paragraph Structure (10), Word Choice (5), Sources (5), Grammar (15)

##### 3. BONUS- Fits Meeting Theme- Up to 5 Points

Certification Requirements

Student Certification

The following information/acknowledgement will be required during the manuscript submission process:

DARREL S. METCALFE JOURNALISM CONTEST CERTIFICATION SHEET (Student)

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

School \_\_\_\_\_

Unless all six of the boxes below are checked by the student, the essay will be disqualified.

This Essay:

- Has between 1000 and 1500 words of text, excluding figures, references, and title page.
- Has a complete title page.
- Has at least one (1) illustration, photograph, table, or graph.
- I am a current member of ASA, CSSA, or SSSA
- If selected as a winner, I agree to allow publication of my entry in the format submitted and judged in this contest, after any required editorial changes.

I hereby state that the accompany manuscript is my own work. The only assistance I may have received during preparation of this submission was in the form of suggestions of topics and sources of materials prior to writing and feedback from a single reviewer that includes suggestions for improvements, but no specific editorial help as defined by the Contest Rules.

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Faculty Certification

The following information will require certification by the faculty member/advisor listed on the student’s manuscript submission. The certification will be sent to the faculty member/advisor electronically:

DARREL S. METCALFE JOURNALISM CONTEST CERTIFICATION SHEET (Faculty)

- The student’s entry is for the current year’s Darrell S. Metcalfe Student Journalism Contest.
- If the entry was also submitted as part of a class assignment, no editorial feedback was provided prior to submission.
- I certify that the above-named student is in good standing in our university and qualified to compete in extracurricular activities, such as the Darrell S. Metcalfe Student Journalism Contest.
- This manuscript was completed and submitted while the author is (was) an undergraduate student.

To the best of my knowledge, no editorial help was given to this student once the actual writing of the manuscript had begun. (Note: contest rules do allow assistance with topic selection and resources as well as a single non-editorial review providing general suggestions for improvement.)

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Signature of Advisor or Faculty Representative