



Student Poster Competition 2026 EDITION

Introduction

The Great Lakes District's Student Activities Committee presents the 2026 Student Poster Competition. The competition is intended for all students who will be attending the 2026 Great Lakes District Student Leadership Summit (SLS) held July 17th-18th in Detroit, MI.

This competition allows student members to showcase the research they've been conducting via a poster to be presented to the SLS attendees.

When/Where?

Presentations will be held during the Student Leadership Summit held July 17th-18th.

General Rules and Registration Logistics

- ITE student co-authors are permitted. **Open to any ITE Student Member attending SLS**
- Posters co-authored by faculty members will **not** be eligible for student awards.
- The judges will evaluate the posters using the criteria on page 2. Following the poster session, the judges will convene to determine the award winners.
- **The objective of the poster is to present the student's research topic fully WITHOUT need for any explanation.**
- Hints for successful poster and judging criteria are page 2.
- All text must be no smaller than 18-point font.
- Full poster must be no larger than 36-inches by 24-inches. Clips, foam board and easels will be provided. The mounting on the foam board will not be judged.
- 1 Poster winner will be judged in each undergraduate and graduate categories, with each category winner receiving \$300.
- If you intend to participate in this year's competition, please fill out the following google form <https://forms.gle/91yxapvvJMrKrfvW7> by **June 1st, 2026** and email Cole G. Villalobos at CVillalobos@hrcengr.com for any questions.

Poster Evaluation Criteria

ABC's of Poster Production

- ✦ **Attention Getting:** first good impression? Grab attention of viewer? Achieved through good lay-out, use of color, title, and other graphic devices.
- ✦ **Brevity:** makes points quickly through good visual / word balance.
- ✦ **Coherence:** logical unified statement requiring no further explanation, capable of standing alone; intellectually accessible to audience.
- ✦ **Direction:** simplicity; focus, easy to follow from point to point.
- ✦ **Evidence:** argument must be supported by evidence, referenced well and accurately.

Quality of Argument (45 points)

HIGH

- Clear statement of research question or relationship being investigated
- Poster "stands alone" requiring no additional explanation
- Logical and thorough explanation of the research question
- All components in presentation given appropriate level of attention
- Adequate consultation of sources; sources cited correctly
- Research objectives outlined precisely

LOW

- Ambiguous or unclear statement or purpose
- Poster is difficult or impossible to comprehend without additional information
- Illogical or inadequate explanation
- Insufficient treatment of components
- Inadequate literature review; sources not cited correctly
- Research objectives not stated or unclear

Quality of Evidence (30 points)

HIGH

- Argument well supported by extensive primary research, evidence, and examples
- Accurate presentation of evidence and examples

LOW

- Inadequate or no primary research, evidence, or examples
- Incomplete or questionable evidence and examples

Use of Graphic Material (15 points)

HIGH

- Effective use of figures, tables, illustrations, maps and other illustrative material
- Illustrations correctly cited, presented well
- Visual material well integrated into the evidence of the Argument

LOW

- Little illustrative material or used ineffectively
- Poorly presented, incorrect citations
- Visual material used to illustrate, not argue or as evidence.

Poster Appearance (10 points)

HIGH

- Poster carefully produced
- All text legible from 4 feet away, text no smaller than 18 point font.
- Material presented is well organized

LOW

- Visual material used to illustrate, not argue or as evidence.
- Much text illegible from moderate distance
- Poor organization of material