WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS IN RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY

2026 Rules for Exhibit Competition

The WAERT offers students a variety of opportunities to deepen their understanding of radiologic sciences. It's essential for future professionals to actively pursue educational experiences that enhance patient care and image quality while adhering to ALARA principles.

Available Activities

Students may participate in the following categories:

- **Essay** – Students write an original essay - may be selected for presentation at the symposium.
- **Scientific Exhibit** – A scientific display with 1-2 objectives used to explore or debate a medical topic. Written and visual materials placed on one formatted power point slide – similar to a tri-fold presentation board.
- **Computer Exhibit** – A PowerPoint® presentation with several slides; narration optional.
- **Video Exhibit** – An original, student produced video.

Each category has specific rules outlined below the general rules.

General Rules

1. **Eligibility**
   Open to students graduating in 2026 who attend the WAERT Spring Symposium.

2. **Awards**
   1st–3rd place winners in each category receive monetary prizes. For group projects, one student will receive the award and distribute it among team members. In the event of a tie, a tie-breaker system will be applied. If there is only **one entry in a category**, the exhibit must meet a minimum point requirement to receive an award.

3. **Recognition**
   All participants will be recognized with a merit badge displayed with their name badge. Merit badges can be kept, but name badges are recycled at the end of symposium.

4. **Subject Matter**
   All exhibits must relate to Imaging Sciences. Participants should review category-specific rules for more details.

5. **Confidentiality**
   All visuals must be high-quality and properly sourced. Do **not** include names of students, programs, clinical sites, hospitals, or patient information. If test images are taken, using a generic name like "Test Image" would be acceptable. Violations will result in disqualification.

6. **Liability**
WAERT will take reasonable precautions, but students are responsible for any loss or damage to their exhibits or equipment.

7. **Multiple Entries**
Students may submit only one entry per category. If entering multiple categories, each entry must cover a different topic and include its own application.

8. **Rule Exceptions**
Exceptions may only be granted by the Exhibit Chairpersons and current WAERT President. Unauthorized changes will result in disqualification.

9. **Application Process**
Application and exhibit submission deadlines are posted on the WSRT/WAERT website. Students should email completed documents to the Exhibit Chairperson indicated that include virtual signatures of both the student and their Program Director. If a group of students submits an exhibit together (allowed for every category except essay exhibits), one student should be designated as the primary contact and listed on the application. Once received and processed, an email will be sent to the student listed.

Each exhibit will be assigned a number, which the student must be clearly display:
   - **Essay**: On the title page and intro slide (if presented).
   - **Scientific Exhibit**: In the exhibit title on the slide.
   - **Computer Exhibit:** On the intro slide
   - **Video Exhibit**: On the title screen

11. **Judging & Scoring**

   Each exhibit category will be evaluated by three judges using standardized rubrics. Copies of these rubrics are available on the WSRT/WAERT website for reference.

   Please note: Objectives are mandatory in certain categories. For complete details, review the information provided in the exhibit category that applies to your entry.

   Judges will be selected from medical imaging and health professionals to ensure accuracy and fairness. All judging will be completed prior to the Symposium, except for the presentation of Essays. **Judging decisions are final.**

   Essays will be sent directly to judges via email. All other exhibits will be **posted on the WSRT website** without identifying information for judges to review during the judging process. After winners are announced, exhibits will be updated to display awarded entries along with the student's program name. Essay and presentation winners will have their essay title and program name listed.

12. **Tie Breaker Process**
    If a tie is found after the initial scoring in a category, the Tie-Breaker System will be used to assign additional points to the tied exhibits and determine their final placement.

    Essays: Each judge will independently score all the submissions in their category using the standard rubrics.   After all papers and presentations have been evaluated, the judges will rank the essayists in their category they found most impressive. For the essay portion, the top five essays will receive tie-breaker points, and for the presentation portion, the top three presentations will earn points.

    Scientific/Computer/Video Exhibits:
    Each judge will independently score all the submissions in their category using the standard rubrics.   After scoring, each judge will rank the **top three exhibits** they were most impressed by:
    - o **1st place = 3 points**
    - o **2nd place = 2 points**
    - o **3rd place = 1 point**
    - If a tie still exists, the number of votes and the number of first place (or higher ranked) votes will be compared.
    - If an exhibit has a penalty deduction, the tie will automatically be broken in favor of the exhibit without a penalty.

13. **Penalties**
    - **Topic Changes**: Changing your topic without approval results in disqualification. Title changes are allowed **within 2 weeks of applying** if approved; otherwise, a 5-point deduction applies.

    - **Exhibit Number**: If the assigned exhibit number is not included with the exhibit title but appears elsewhere in the exhibit, a 2-point deduction will be applied. If the number is missing entirely, a 10-point deduction will be applied.

    - **Identification**: Any identifying information (student, school, patient) will result in disqualification.

14. **Formatting & Sources**
    All exhibits must follow **APA 7th edition formatting**. All sources, including images and diagrams, must be properly cited.

15. **Deadlines**
    All deadlines are strictly enforced.

Essay Exhibit and Presentation

1. Essay Submission Guidelines

- Submit one original essay via **email** to the Exhibit Chairperson indicated in **Word® format only** (not Adobe®) by the posted deadline. The date and time on the email submission will serve as the official timestamp for entry. Students must also submit an application deadline by the date listed.

- Essays must:
  o Contain no student or program identifiers.
  o Be written by one author.
  o Be 6–10 full pages (excluding cover page, abstract, and references).
  o Essays must be formatted electronically on 8.5" x 11" paper, double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins.
  o Follow APA 7th edition style (information found at this link: Purdue OWL APA Guide).
  o Include a clear thesis, supported by content and conclusion.
  o Cite at least 5 current sources, with in-text citations and a reference page.
  o A specific title format will be provided after application approval.

2. Presentation Commitment

Authors whose essays are selected agree to present their topic orally at the Spring Symposium.

3. Judging

- Three judges will evaluate all submitted papers using the **Essay Rating Scale – Paper** within 30 days of the submission deadline.
- Three different judges will assess the oral presentations using the **Essay Rating Scale – Presentation**.
- Judges in both categories will work independently and form their own opinions. To ensure fairness, no judge will evaluate both the written essay and the oral presentation.

4. Symposium Presentation

Once the preliminary judging has been completed, the exhibit chairman will tally the points and determine eligible papers for presentation based on total points accumulated.

- Top five essays will be chosen for presentation.
- Presentations must be in the student's own words.
- There will be a time limit for the presentations that is strictly enforced.
- No videos or external links allowed in the presentation

The presentation day will be determined by the symposium schedule. On the selected day, presentations will take place approximately 90 minutes before the conference begins. The exact date and time will be communicated to all presenters.

5. Scoring & Awards

Winners for 1st through 3rd place will be determined by the combined scores from the essay and presentation. In the event of a tie, the tie-breaker system outlined in the general rules will apply.

Scientific Exhibits

1. Application & Format
- Submit applications and exhibits by the posted deadline to the Exhibit Chairperson indicated.
- Exhibitors will receive confirmation via email.
- WAERT provides a standard "poster board" template slide; customization (fonts, colors) is allowed.
- Slide size **must not be altered**—violations result in point deductions.
- Limit of **1–2 objectives** per exhibit.
- Space is limited; concise content and selective graphics are encouraged.
- Sources should be listed in the **notes section** of the template and referenced in the exhibit.
- **Tip**: Review your poster in **slideshow mode**, as judges will view it this way.

2. Exhibit Number
- Each exhibit is assigned a number upon application approval.
- This number **must appear in the exhibit title on the slide**. Title changes without notification may result in deductions.

3. Sources & Confidentiality
- All sources must be listed in **APA 7th edition format** and appear in the notes portion of the exhibit. Sources should also be referenced in the exhibit to be counted.
- Remove any identifying information from radiographic images including patient information and the institution they were obtained.
  - Charts, photos, and technical data are allowed if they meet these criteria.

Computer & Video Exhibit Rules on next page.

Computer Exhibits

1. Application
- Submit applications and exhibits by the posted deadline.
- No limit on the number of objectives.

2. Confidentiality & Format
- All visuals must be high-quality, properly sourced (**APA 7th edition format)**, and free of identifying information (program, site, hospital, patient). Judges should not have any indication of the program the student(s) are from.
- **Exhibit number must be displayed on the intro slide.**
- Exhibits must be original work.
- Judging will be based solely on the content of the presentation itself, not on any surrounding or additional materials. For example, an interactive or continuously running PowerPoint program would not influence the evaluation.

3. Audio Clarification (2026 Update)
- Audio is allowed but should enhance—not simply narrate—the content.
- Judges may review with and without audio to assess its value.
- Embedded audio is considered part of the exhibit and will be judged accordingly.

4. Submitting Completed Exhibits

If the file size is large, the presentation may need to be converted; the Exhibit Chairperson will assist with this process. To avoid delays, it is strongly recommended that you submit your project early.

Video Exhibits

1. Application
- Submit applications and exhibits by the posted deadline.
- No limit on the number of objectives.

2. Confidentiality & Format
- All visuals must be high-quality, properly sourced (**APA 7th edition format**), and free of identifying information (program, site, hospital, patient). Judges should not have any indication of the program the student(s) are from.
- **Exhibit number must be displayed on the title screen.**
- Exhibits must be original work.
- Judging is based solely on the content within the video – no surrounding materials will be considered.

3. Submitting Completed Exhibits

Upload your video exhibit to a YouTube® account and email the link to the Exhibit Chairperson indicated by the posted deadline.